

The Most Delectable

HISTORY

O F

Reynard the Fox.

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Newly Corrected and Purged, from all grossness
in Phrase and Matter.

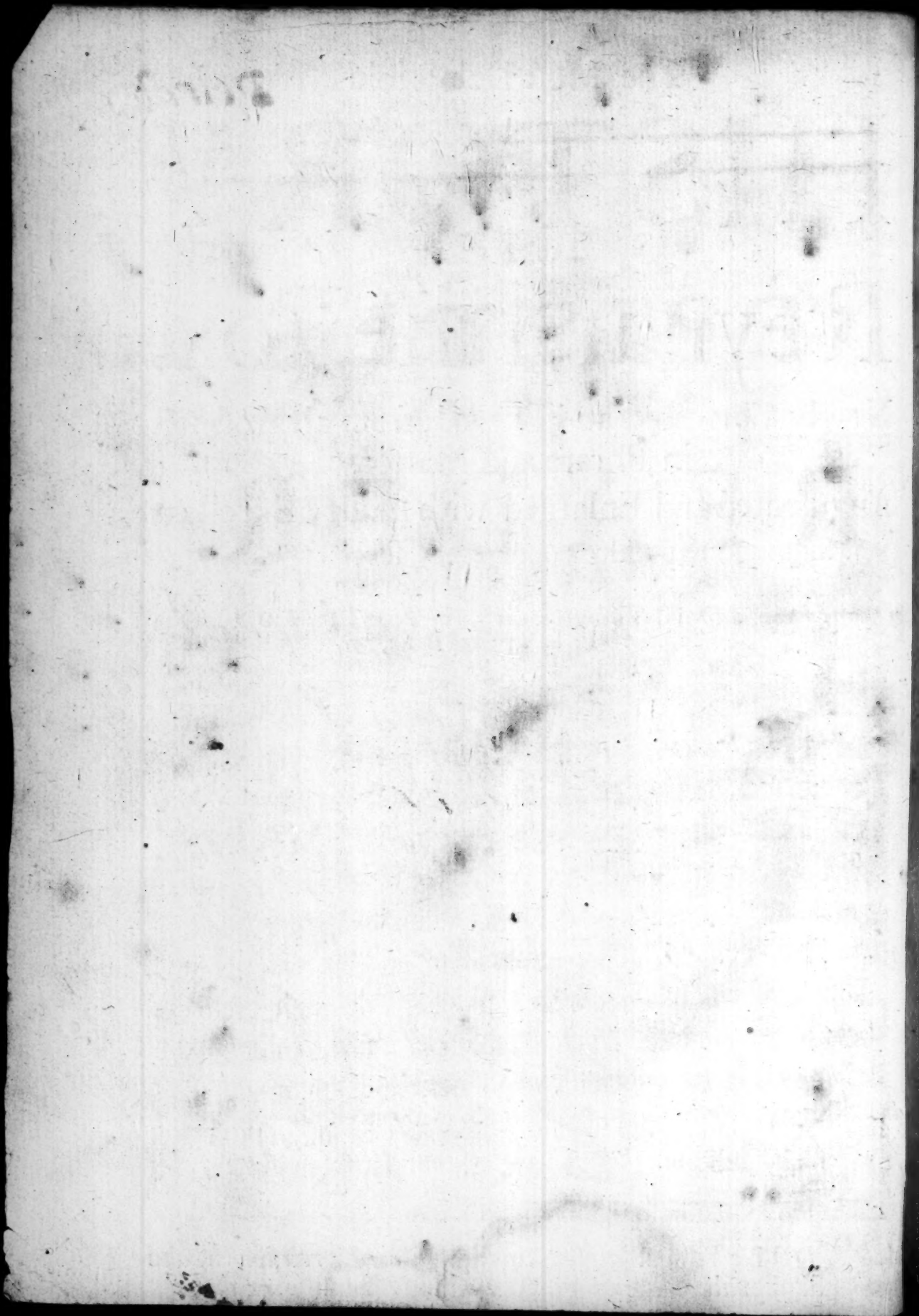
Augmented and Enlarged with sundry Excellent
Morals and Expositions upon every several Chapter.

to which may now be added a Second Part of the said History :

As also the Shifts of *Reynardine* the Son of *Reynard* the F O X,
Together with his Life and Death, &c.



LONDON, Printed by T. Ilive, for Edward Brewster, at the
Sign of the Crane in St. Pauls Church-Yard. 1701.



THE
EPISTLE
TO THE
READER.

THOU hast here (courteous and
and friendly Reader) the pleasant
and delightful History of *Reynard*
the Fox, which in an humble and low stile
(couched to the natures of Beasts it treateth
on) beareth in it much excellent Morality
and hidden Wisdom, worthy both thy re-
gard in the reading, and thine application
in the course and commercement of thy
Life and Actions: for, the aim at which it
bendeth, is the overthrow of Vice, and the
advancement of the Good and Virtuous.

Now, forasmuch as hitherto it hath flown
into the World (like *Sybila's* loose Papers) co-
vered with much obscurity and darkness: I
have for thy more ease and contentment, to

The Epistle to the Reader.

every several Chapter, annexed the Morals and Expositions of such dark places, as may hold thy Judgment, in seeking to find out a Labyrinth so dark and curious. A labour, which I doubt not but it will prove both pleasant and wholesome, since as a friendly Guide it will keep thy meditations from wandring astray ; and as a pleasant Companion, hold thee with such delightful discourse, that thy Journey therein will neither be long nor irksome therein ; at which End, if it arrive with a fair safety, as it is faithfully and truly intended, I have the sum of my wishes, and thy self the prosperity, both of this and other mens Endeavours.

Farewell.



The Pleasant

HISTORY

O F

REYNARD the FOX.

CHAP. I.

How the *Lyon* Proclaimed a Solemn Feast at his Court,
and how *Isegrin* the Wolf and his Wife, and
Curtise the Hound, made their Complaints of
Reynard the FOX.

ABOUT the Feast of Pentecost (which is commonly called Whitsontide) when the Woods are in their lusty-hood and gallantry, and every Tree cloathed in the green and white Libery of glorious leaves, and sweet smelling blossoms; and the earth covered in her fairest Mantle of Flowers, which the Birds with much joy entertain with the Delight of their harmonious songs.

Then at this time and entrance of the lusty Spring, the Lyon the Royal King of Beasts, to celebrate this holy Feast-time with all triumphant ceremony, intends to keep open Court at his great Palace of Sanden; and to that end (by of-
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lemon Proclamation) makes known other all his Kingdom to all beasts whatsoever, that upon pain to be held contemptuous, every one should resort to that great celebration; so that within few days after (at the time prefixed) all Beasts both great and small, came in infinite multitudes to the Court, only Reynard the Fox excepted, who knew himself guilty in so many trespasses against many Beasts, that his coming thither must needs have put his life in great hazard and danger.



Now when the King had assembled all his Court together there were few Beasts found, but made their several complaints against the Fox: but especially Isegrim the Wolf, who being the first and principal complainant, came with all his lineage and kindred, and standing before the King, said in this manner.

My dread and dearest Sovereign Lord the King, I humbly beseech you, that from the height and strength of your great power, and the multitude of your mercies, you will be pleased to take pity on the great trespasses and unsufferable injuries which

of Reynard the FOX.



which that unwoorthy creature Reynard the Fox hath done to me, my wife, and our whole family: of which to give your Highness some tast, know (if it please your Majesty) that this Reynard came into my house by violence, and against the will of my wife, where finding my Children laid in my quiet couch, he so be-pist them in so rank a manner, that with the sharpness of his Urine they fell instantly blind: For this offence a day was set and appointed, wherein Reynard should come to excuse himself, and to take a solem Oath that he was guiltless of that high injury: but as soon as the Book was tendred before him (he that well knew his own guiltiness) refused to swear, and ran instantly into his hole, both in contempt of your Majesty and your Laws: This (my dread Lord) may not the noblest Beasts know which now are resident in your Court: For hath this alone bounded his malice, but in many other things he hath trespass against me, which to relate, neither the time nor your Highness patience, would give sufferance thereunto: suffice it, mine injuries are so great, that none can exceed them and the shame and villany he hath done to my wife is such, that

The Moral.

Howsoever a vicious man perswades himself to escape punishment, by absenting himself from the presence of the magistrate; yet he deceives himself, & by contempt animates his enemies to be more bold in their complaints against him, as appears herein.

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that I can never bide nor suffer it unrevenge, but I must expect from him amends, and from your Majesty mercy. When the Wolf had spoken these words, there stood by him a little Hound whose name was Curlew, who stepping forth, made likewise a grievous complaint (unto the King) against the Fox, saying, that in the extreame cold season of the winter, when the frost was most violent, he being half starved and de-



tained from all manner of prey, had no more meat left him to sustain his life, than one poor Pudding, which Pudding (he said) Reynard had most unjustly taken from him.

But

of Reynard the FOX.

But the Hound could hardly let the words fly from his lips, when with a fiery and angry countenance, in sprang Tibert the Cat amongst them, and falling down before the King, said, My Lord the King, I must confess the Fox is here grievously complained upon: yet were other Beasts actions searched each would have enough to do for its own clearing.

Touching the complaint of Curtise the hound, it was an offence committed many years ago: and though I my self complain of no injury, yet was the Budding mine, and not his: for I got it by night out of a Mill when the Miller lay asleep: so that if Curtise could challenge any share thereof, it must be from mine interest.

When Panther heard these words of the Cat, he stood forth and said, Do you imagine Tibert, that it were a just or a good course that Reynard should not be complained upon? why the whole World knows he is a murderer, a ravisher, and a thief, and that indeed he loveth not truly any Creature, no not his Majesty himself, but would suffer his highness to lose both Honour and Renown, so that he might thereby attain to himself but so much as the leg of a fat Hen: I shall tell you what I saw him do yesterday to Kayward the Hare, now standeth in the Kings Presence: he promised unto Kayward that he would teach him his Credo, and make him a good Chaplain; he made him come sit between his legs, find sing and cry aloud Credo, Credo, my way lay thereby, and I heard the song: then coming nearer, I found that Mr. Kayward had left his first note and song, and began to play his old deceit: for he had caught Kayward by the throat, and had I not at that time come, he had taken his life also, as you may see by the fresh wound on Kayward at this present. O my Lord the King, if you suffer this unpunished, and let him go quit that hath thus broken your peace, and profaned your dignity, and doing no right according to the judgment of your Laws, your Princely children, many years hereafter, shall bare the slander of his evil. Certainly Panther (said Megrim) you say true, and it is fit they receive the benefit of Justice, that desire to live in peace.

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CHAP. II.

How *Grimbard* the Brock spake for *Raynard*, before
the KING.

Then spake *Grimbard* the Brock (that was *Reynards*
sisters Son) being much moved with anger, *Isegrim*,
you are malicious, and it is a common Proverb. Malice never



of Reynard the FOX.

spake well, what can you say against my kinsman Reynard? *The Moral.*
 I would you durst adventure, that which of you had most injured one another, might die the death, and be hanged as a fellow: I tell you, were he here in the Court, and as much in the Kings favour as you are, it would be too little satisfaction for you to ask mercy: you have many times bitten and torn my kinsman with your venemous teeth, and much oftner then I can reckon; yet some I will call unto my remembrance.

Have you forgot how you cheated him with the Blaice which he threwe down from the Cart, when you followed a loof for fear? yet you deboured the good Blaice alone, and gave him no more but the great bones, which you could not eat your self: the like you did with the fat sitch of Bacon, whose taste was so good, that your self alone ded eat it up; and when my Uncle asked his part, you answered him with scozn, Fair young man thou shalt have thy share; but he got not any thing, albeit he won the Bacon with great fear and hazard, for the owner came and caught my kinsman in a Sack, from whence he hardly escaped with life: many of these injuries hath Hegrim done to Reynard, which I beseech your Lordships judge if these be sufferable: again, he complaineth that my kinsman hath wronged him in his wife: 'tis true and I confesse Reynard hath lien with her: yet it was seven years before Hegrim did wed her: and if my Uncle out of courtesie did her a pleasure, what was that to him: he was soon healed of her soze: noz ought he to complain of any thing not belonging to him; wisdom would have concealed it; for what credit gets he by the slander of his wife, especially when she is not grieved?

Now comes Kayward the Hare with his complaint, which to me seems but a trifle: for if he will learn to read, and read not his lesson aright, who will blame the School-master Reynard if he give him due correction: for if Scholars be not beaten and chastised, they will never learn.

Lastly complaineth Curtise, that he with great pain had

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gotten a pudden in the Window, being a season in which victuals are hard; me-thinks silence would have become him better, for he had stolen it: and Male quesiti, & male perdidisti, 'tis fit it was evil lost, it was evil won; who can blame Raynard to take stolen goods from a thief? It is reason that he that understands the Law, and can discern right, being of great and high birth, as my kinsman is, do right unto the Law; Nay, had he hanged up Curteis when he took him in that manner, he had offended none but the King, in doing Justice without leave; wherefore for respect to his Majesty he did it not, though he reap little thanks for his labour: alas how do these complaints hurt him: mine Uncle is a Gentleman, and a true man: nor can I indure falsehood: he doth nothing without the counsel of the Priest: and I affirm, since my Lord the King proclaimed his peace, he never thought to hurt any man: for he eateth but once a day, he lieth as a Recluse, he chastiseth his body, and weareth a shirt of ha r-cloth: it is a year since he eat any flesh (as I have been truly informed by them that came but yestreday from him) he hath forsaken his Castle Malepardus, and abounded all Loyalty, a poor Hermitage retains him: hunting he hath forsworn, and his wealth he hath scattered, living only by alms and good mens charities; doing infinite penance for his sins, so that he is become pale and lean with praying and fasting, for he would fain be with God.

Thus whilst Gimbard his Nephew stood preaching, they perceibe coming down the hill unto them, stout Chantecleer the Cock, who brought upon a Bier, a dead Hen, of whom Reynard had bitten of the head, and it was brought to the King to have knowledge thereof.

CHAP. III.

*Chantecleer the Cock complaineth of Reynard the
FOX.*

CHANTECLEER marched foremost, smote piteously his hands & feathers, whilst on the other side the Bier, went
two

of Reynard the FOX.



two sorrowful Hens, the one was Copple, the other the good
Hen Cragant, being two of the fairest Hens between Holland
and Arden: these Hens bore each of them a straight bright
burning Taper, and these Hens were sister to Copple (which
lay dead on the Bier) and in the marching they cried,
Alack, alack and well-a day for the death of Copple our
dear

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The Moral. When wicked men cannot compass their wickedness by strong hand, or violence against their enemies: then they study deceits and shifts to entangle them, of all which none is so powerful, as the shew of Religion: for that working upon the easie belief of the simple, makes them many times slip themselves into the rough Seas, whence there is no help, but shipwrack, as the foolish Cock did to believe the subtle Fox. Also in this a man may see, that though an evil man may be now and then excused of some faults, yet still, he shall not escape being discovered.

Dear sister, Two young Hens bare the Bier, which cackled so heavily, and wept so loud for the death of Coppel their mother, that the hills gave an eccho to the clamour: thus being come befoze the King, Chantecler kneeling down, spake in this manner.

Most merciful and my great Lord the King, vouchsafe, I beseech you to hear our complaint, and redress these injuries which Reynard hath unjustly done to me, and my childzen, that here stand weeping; for so it is (most mighty Sir) that in the beginning of April, when the weather was fair, I being then at the height of my pride and glory, because of the great stock and lineage I came of, and also in that I had eight valiant sons, and seven fair daughters, which my wife had hatched, all which were strong and fat, and walked in a yard well walled, and fenced round about, wherein they had in several sheds for their guard six stout Mastiff Dogs, which had torn the Skins of many wild Beasts; so that my childzen feared not any evil which might happen unto them: But Reynard, that false and dissembling Traytor, envying their happy fortune because of their safety, many times assailed the walls, and gave such dangerous assaults, that the Dogs divers times were let forth unto him and hunted him away; yea, once they light upon him, and bit him, and made him pay the price of his theft, as his torn skin witnessed; yet nebertheless he escaped, the more was the pity; yet we were quiet of his trouble a great while after; at last he came in the likeness of a Hermit, and brought me a letter to read, Sealed with your Majesties Seal, in which I found written, that your Highness had made peace througbout all your Realm, and that no manner of Beasts or Fowl should do injury one to another; affirming unto me, that for his own part he was become a Monk or Cloistered Recluse, bowing to perform a daily penance for his sins: shewing unto me his Beads, his Books, and the hair shirt next to his skin; saying in humble wise unto me: Sir Chantecler, neber henceforth be affraid of me, for I have vowed neber more to eat flesh.

of Reynard the FOX.



I am now waxed old, and would only remember my soule:
therefore I take my leafe: for I haue yet my noon and my
euen-song to say: which spake, he departed saying his Credo
as he went, and layed him down under a Hawthorn: at this
I was exceeding glad, that I took no heed, but went and
locked my children together and walked without the Wall;
which

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which I shall eber rue: for false Reynard lping under a bush, came creeping betwixt us and the gate, and suddenly surprized one of my childzen, which he thrust up in his mail, and boze away to my great sorrow; for habing tasted the sweetness of our flesh, neither hunter nor hound can protect or keep him from us: Night and day he waits upon us with that greediness, that of fifteen of my childzen, he hath left but four unslaughtered; and yesterday Copple my daughter (which here lieth dead on the Bier) was after her mother by a Kennel of Hounds rescued from him. This is my complaint, and this I leave to your Highness mercy to take pity of me, and the loss of my fair Childzen.

The Kings answer to the Cocks complaint: and they sung the Dirge.

The Moral.
Here those that excuse bad actions, may see how such offences return to disgrace, because evil mens vices being disclosed, excuses are their shames that make them: as it happned now to the Brock. Also in the Lion may be seen the effects of a good disposition; which is exprest in the honours and rights of burial done to the Hen, which is a satisfaction

Then spake the King, Sir Grimberd here you this of your Uncle the Recluse? he hath fasted and prayed well: well believe it, if I live a year, he shall dearly abide it: as for you Chantecleer, your complaint is heard, and shall be cured: to your daughter that is dead, we will give her the right burial, and with solemn Dirge bring her to the earth with worship; which done, we will consult with our Lords, how to do you right and justice against the murtherer. Then began the Placedo Domine, with all the verses belonging to it, which are too many to recite: and as soon as the Dirge was done, the body was interred, and upon a fair Marble stone laid, being polished as bright as glass: in which was engraven in great letters this inscription following, COPPLE Chantecleers daughter, whom Reynard the Fox hath slain, lieth here buried; Mourn thou that readeest it: For her Death was unjust and lamentable. After this the King sent for his Lords and wisest Councellores, to consult how this foul murder of Reynards might be punished. In the end it was concluded that Reynard should be sent for, and without all excuse to appear before the King, to answer the trespasses that should

of Reynard the FOX.



for the grief
her kin endu-
red. In the
Bear's willing-
ness to fetch
the Fox, is ex-
prest how apt
a malicious na-
ture is to be
employed in
any thing that
may offend his
adversary, and
how common-
ly such em-
ployments
miscarry.

delibered by Bruin the Bear : to all this the King gave consent,
and calling him before him, said: Sir Bruin, it is our pleasure
that you deliver this message, yet in the delivery thereof have
great regard to your self : for Reynard is full of policy, and
knoweth how to dissemble, flatter and betray ; he hath a world
of

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selves for the
ill they have
received.

of snares to entangle you withal, and without great exercise of judgment, will make a scozn and mock of the best wisdom breathing. My Lord (answered Sir Bruir) let me alone with Keynard; I am not such a truant in discretion, to become a mock to his knabery: and thus full of jollity, the Bear departed: if his return be as jovial, there is no fear in his well speeding.



of Reynard the FOX.

CHAP. V.

How Bruin the Bear sped with Reynard the FOX.

The next morning away went Bruin the Bear in quest of the Fox, armed against all Plots of deceit whatsoever: and as he came through a dark forest in which Reynard had a by-path, which he used when he was hunted he saw a high mountain, over which he must pass to go to Malepardus; for though Reynard have many houses, yet Malepardus is his chiefest and most ancient Castle, and in it he lay both for defence and ease: Now at last when Bruin was come to Malepardus, he found the gates close shut, at which after he had knocked (sitting on his tail) he called aloud, Sir Reynard, are you at home? I am Bruin your Kinsman, whom the King hath sent to summon you to the Court, to answer many foul accusation exhibited against you; and hath taken a great Oath, that if you fail to appear to this summons, that your life shall answer your contempt, and your goods and honours shall lie confiscate at his Highness mercy: Therefore, fair Kinsman, be advised by your friend, and go with me to the Court, to shun the danger that else will fall upon you. Reynard lying close by the gate (as his custom was, for the warm Sun-sake) hearing these words, departed into one of his holes, for Malepardus is full of many intricate and curious Rooms, which (labrynth wise he could pass thorough, when either his danger, or the benefit of any prey required the same) where meditating a while with himself how he might counterplot and bring the Bear to disgrace (whom he knew loved him not) and himself to honour; at last he came forth, and said, Dear Uncle Bruin, you are exceeding welcome, pardon my slowness in coming, for at your first speech I was saying my Even-song; and devotion must not be neglected: believe me he hath done you no good service, nor do I thank him which hath sent you this weary and long journey, in which your sweat and toil, far exceeds the worth of the labour: certainly had you not come, I had to morrow been at the Court of mine own accord

yet

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The Moral. In this Encounter between the Fox and the Bear, is exprest the dissimulation of two wicked persons, each plotting to do the other mischief: wherein though the worst get the victory at first; yet the just cause, in the end prevailerth. In the Bears greediness to eat honey, is exprest, the lascivious inconstancy of a loose unrestrained na-

yet at this time my sorrow is much lessened, in as much as your counsel at this present, may return me double benefit: Alas Uncle! could his Majesty find no meaner messenger than your noble self to employ in these trivial affairs? truly it appears strange to me: especially since, next his Royal Self, you are of greatest renown both in Blood and Riches: for my part I would we were both at Court for I fear our journey will be exceeding troublesome: for to speak truth, since I made my abstinence from flesh, I have eaten such strange new meats, that my body is very much distempered, and swelled as if it would break. Alas Dear Cousin (said the Bear) what meat is this which makes you so ill? Uncle (answered he) what will it profit you to know? the meat was simple and mean, we poor men are no Lords you know, but eat that for necessity, which others eat for wantonness: yet, not to delay you, that which I eat, was Honey-combs, great, full and most pleasant, which compelled my hunger, I eat so immeasurably, and am thereby infinitely distempered: ah, quoth Bruin, Honey-combs do you make such slight respect of them, Nephew? why it is meat for the greatest Emperour in the World, Fair Nephew

of Reynard the FOX.

pheto, help me but to some of that Honey, and command me whilst I live; for one little part thereof I will be your servant eberlastingly. Sure, said the Fox (Uncle, you but jest with me. But jest with you, replied Bruin? beshrew my heart then, for I am in that serious earnest, that for one lick thereof, you shall make me the faithfulst of all your kindred. Nay, (said the Fox) if you be in earnest, then know, I will bring you where so much is, that rest of you shall not be able to devour it at a meal; only for your love sake, which above all things I desire Uncle. Not ten of us, said the Bear) it is impossible: for had I all the Honey betwixt Hibernia and Portugal, yet I could in a short space eat it all my self. Then know Uncle (quoth the Fox) that near at hand here dwelleth a Husband-man named Lantert, who is master of so much Honey, that you cannot consume in seven years, which for your love and friendship sake I will put into your possession. Bruin mad upon the Honey, swoze, that to have but one good meal thereof, he would not only be his faithful, friend but also stop the mouths of all his adversaries. Reynard smiling at his easie belief, said, If you will have seven & un, Uncle, you shall have it. These words pleased the Bear so well, and made him so pleasant, that he could not stand for laughing.

Well, thought the Fox, this is good fortune; sure I will lead him where he shall laugh more measurably: and then said, Uncle, we must delay no time, and I will spare no pain for your sake, which for none of my kin I would perform. The Bear gave him many thanks, and so away they went, the Fox promising him as much Honey as he could bear, but meant as many strokes as he could undergo; in the end, they came to Lantert's House, the sight whereof made the Bear rejoyce. This Lantert was a stout and lusty Carpenter, who the other day had brought into his yard a great Oak, which (as their manner is) he began to cleave, and had struck into it two wedges, in such wise, that the cleft stood a great way open: at which the Fox rejoyced much, for it was answerable to his wish: so that with a smiling countenance he said to the Bear, Behold now, dear Uncle, and be careful of your self, for within this tree is so much Honey, that it is unmeasurable,

ture, that for a minutes enjoying of their own delights, quite forget the business and cares they have in hand. In the Fox is exprest the cunning of wisdom which ever casts out (to loose nature) those baits of delights, which being swallowed with greediness, do ever choak the swallower, as appeareth by the Bear: who is not only wounded and in danger of his life, but also made a meek and scorn to his enemies. Also by the cruelty used on the Bear by the common people, is shewed, how when an ill man is once snared in his vices, every one of what degree soever, from the highest to the lowest, are ready to persecute and revenge them.

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surable, try if you can get into it; yet good Uncle eat moderately: for albeit the Combs be sweet and good yet a surfeit is dangerous, and may be troublesome to your body, which I would not for a World, since no harm can come to you, but must be my dishonour. Sozroth not for me; Nephew Reynard said the Bear) nor think me such a fool, that I cannot temper

of Reynard the FOX.

per mine appetite. At is true, my best Uncle, I was too bold,
I pray you enter in at the end, and you shall find your desire.
The Bear with all haste entred the tree, with his two feet
forward, and thrust his head into the cleft, quite over the eare:
which when the Fox perceived, he instantly ran and pull'd
the wedges out of the tree, so that he locked the Bear fast
therein and then neither flattery nor anger availed the Bear:
for the Newphew had by his deceit brought the Uncle into so
fast a prison, that it was impossible by any Art to free himself
of the same. Alas; what profiteth now his great strength
and valour? why, they are both causes of more vexation and
hazard, and with scratching and tumbling to make such a noise,
that Lanfert, amazed, came hastily out of his house, having in
his hand a sharp hook, whilst the Bear lay wallowing and
he finding himself destitute of all relief began to howl and
roaring within the tree: which the Fox afar off seeing, he
said to the Bear in scorn, Is the Honey good Uncle) which
you eat? how do you? eat not too much I beseech you; plea-
sant things are apt to surfeit, and you may hinder your jour-
ney to the Court: when Lanfert cometh if your belly be full)



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he will give you drinke to digest it, and wash it down your throat: and having thus said, he went towards the Castle. But by this time Lanfert finding the Bear fast taken in the tree, he ran to his neighbours, and desired them to come into his yard, for there is a Bear fast taken there; Which being noised thow all the Town, there was neither Man. nor Woman, nor Child, but ran thither; some with one weapon, and some with another, as Goads, Rakes, Boom-staves, and what they could gather up: the Priest had the handle of the Cross, the Clerk had Holy-water sprinkled, and the Priest's wife, Dame Jullock with her Distaff, for she was then spinning: Nay, the old Weldams came, that had never a tooth in their heads. This Army put Bruin into a great fear, being none but himself to withstand them, and hearing the clamour of the noise which came thundring upon him, he wrestled and pulled so extremly that he got out his head, but left behind him all the skin, and his ears also; insomuch that never creature beheld a fouler or more deformed Beast: for the blood covered all his face and his hands, leaving the claws and skin behind him, nothing remaining but ugliness: 'twas an ill market the Bear came to; for he lost both motion and sight, feet and eyes: but notwithstanding this torment, Lanfert, the Priest, and the whole Parish came upon him and so be-cudgell'd him about his body part, that it might well be a warning to all in in misery, to know that ever the weakest shall still go to the walls: This the Bear found by experience, for every one exercised the height of their furies upon him; even Houghlin with the crooked leg; and Ludolf with the long broad nose, the one with a leaden Ball, and the other with an iron whip, all to be-lashed poor Sir Bruin; not so much, but Sir Bertolt with the long fingers, Lanfert and Ortam did him more annoyance than all the rest, the one having a sharp Welsh-hook, the other a crooked staff well leaded at the end, wh:ch he used to play at stab-ball with: all: there was Burkin and Armes-Ablequack, Bane the Priest with his staff, and dame Jullock his wife: all these so be-laboured the Bear, that his life was in great danger: the poor Bear in this Massacre sate and sighed extremly, groaning under the burthen of their strokes, of which Lanfert & were the great-

of Reynard the FOX.

greatest, and thundered most dreadfully: for Dame Podge of Casport was his Mother, and his Father was Marob the Steeple-maker, a passing stout man when he was alone: Bruin received of him many showers of stones, till Lanferts Brother rushing before the rest with a staff, struck the Bear on the head such a blow, that he could neither hear nor see; so that awaking from the astonishment, the Bear leapt into the River adjoining, through a cluster of Willows there standing together, of which threw divers into the water, which was large and deep, amongst whom the Parsons wife was one, which the Parson seeing how she floated like a Sea-mew, he left striking the Bear, and cryed to the rest of the company, help, oh help! Dame Jullock is in the water, help both Men and Women, for whosoever saves her, I give free pardon of all their sins and transgressions, and remit all penance imposed whatsoever: this heard every one left the Bear to help dame Jullock, which as soon as the Bear saw, he cut the stream, and swam away as fast as he could; but the Priest with a great noise pursued him, crying in a great rage, Turn William that I may be rebenged of thee: but the Bear swam in the strength of the stream, and suspected not his calling, for he was proud that he was escaped from them: only he bitterly curst the Honey-tree, and the Fox, which had not only betrayed him, but had made him lose his hood from his face, and his gloves from his fingers: in this sort he swam some three miles down the water, in which time he grew so weary: that he went on the Land to get ease, where blood trickled down his face; he groaned, sighed and drew his breath so short as if his last hour had been expiring: Now whilst these things were in doing, the Fox in his way home stole a fat Hen, and threw her into his Pale, a running thorough a by-path that no man might perceive him, he came to the River with infinitely joy: for he suspected that the Bear was certainly slain: therefore said to himself, My fortune is as I wish it, for the greatest enemy I had in the Court is now dead: nor can any man suspect me guilty thereof; but as he spoke these words looking towards the River, he espied where Bruin the Bear lay resting which struck his heart with grief, and he railed against Lanfert the Carpenter, saying, filly fool that thou art, what mad-man would

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have lost such good venison, especially being so fat and wholesome, and for which he took no pains, for he was taken to his hand: any man would have been proud of the fortune which thou neglectest. Thus fretting and chiding he came to the River, where he found the Bear all wounded and bloody, of which Reynard was only guilty; yet in scorn he said to the Bear, Monfieur, Dieu vous garde. And thou foul red villain, said the Bear to himself, what impudence is like this? But the Fox went on with his speech, and said, What Uncle? have you forgot any thing at Lanfert, or have you paid for the Honey-comes you stole? if you have not, it will redound much to your disgrace, which before you shall undergo, I will pay him for them my self; sure the honey was excellent good, and I know much more at the same price: Good Uncle, tell me before I go, into what order do you mean to enter, that you wear this new fashioned hood? will you be a Monk, an Abbot, or a Friar? surely he that shaved your crown, hath cropt your ears, also your foretop is lost, and your globes are gone, fie sloben, go not bare-handen; they say you can sing Peccavi rarely. These taunts made Bruin mad with rage; but because he could not take revenge, he was content to let him talk his pleasure! then after a small rest, he plunged again into the River, and swam over the stream, and landed on the other side, where he began with much grief to meditate how he might get to the Court; for he had lost his ears, his Talons, and all the skin off his feet, so that he had a thousand deaths followed him; he could not go, yet of necessity he must move, that in the end compelled by extremity, he set his buttocks on the ground, and tumbled his body over and over; so by degrees tumbling now half a mile, and then half a mile, in the end he tumbled to the Court; where divers beholding his strange manner of approach, they thought some prodigie had come towards them; but in the end the King knew him, and grew angry, saying, It is Sir Bruin my servant, what villains have wounded him thus? or where hath he been, that he brings his death thus along with him? And my dread Sovereign Lord the King (cried out the Bear) I complain grievously unto you: behold how I am massacred, which I humbly beseech you revenge on that false Reynard, who for

donig

of Reynard the FOX.

doing your Royal pleasure hath brought me to this disgrace and slaughter. When said the King, How durst he do this? now by my Croton I swear, I will take revenge, which shall make the Traytor tremble: whereupon the King sent for all his Council, and consult how, and in what sort to prosecute against the Fox: where it was generally concluded, that he should be again summoned to appear and answer his trespasses; and the party to summon him, they appointed to be Tibert the Cat, as well for his gravity, as wisdom: all which pleased the King well.

C H A P. VI.

How the King sent Tibert the Cat for Reynard the FOX.

Then the King called for Sir Tibert the Cat, and said to him, Sir Tibert, you shall go to Reynard, and summon him the second time, and command him to appear, and answer his offences; for though he be cruel to other Beasts, yet to you he is courteous; assure him if he fail at the first summons, that I will take so severe a course against him, and his posterity, that his example shall certify all offenders. When said Tibert the Cat, My dread Lord, they were my foes which thus advis'd you for there's nothing in me that can force him either to come, or tarry: I beseech your Majesty send some one of greater power, I am little and feeble: besides, if noble Sir Bruin, that is so strong and mighty, could not enforce him, what will my weakness avail? The King replied, it is your wisdom, Sir Tibert, I employ, and not your strength; and many prevail with Art, when violence returns with lost labour: Well, said the Cat, since it is your pleasure, it must be accomplished, Heaven make my fortune better than my heart presageth: Thus Tibert made things in readiness, and went to Malepardus, and in his journey, he saw come flying towards him one of Saint Martins Birds, to whom the Cat cried aloud, hail gentle-bird: I beseech thee turn thy wings and fly on my right hand: but the bird turned the contrary way, and flew on the left side; then grew the Cat very heavy, for he was wise and skilful in Augurism, and knew the

The Moral.

By the sending of the Cat to fetch the Fox; is exprest the care of Governours, that when they have been deceived by the pride and ostentation of such as they did employ, and though he discreet, that then they seek out those that are known wise, and employ them, because wisdom is even circumvented by a greater wisdom. In the Cats much lothness to go, is exprest, the unwilling

The Pleasant History

ness a wise man hath to meddle in dangerous matters, especially when they hold the party with whom they have to do, of a reach far beyond them: yet when authority commands, they must obey, though never so many dangers attend.

sign to be ominous; nevertheless (as many do) he armed himself with better hope, and went to Malepardus, where he found the Fox standing before the Castle-gates, to whom Tibert said, Health to my fair Cousin Reynard: so it is, that the King by me summons you to the Court; in which, if you fail or defer time, there is nothing more assured unto you than a cruel and sudden death. The Fox answered, Well come dear Cousin Tibert, I obey your command, and wish my Lord the King infinite days of happiness; only let me intreat you to rest with me to night, and take such cheer as my simple house affordeth, and return as early as you will, we will go towards the Court, for I have no kinsman I trust so dearly as your self. Here was with me the other day, the treacherous Knight Sir Bruin the Bear, who look'd upon me with that tyrannous cruelty, that I would not for the wealth of an Empire hazard my person with him, but my dear Cousin, with you I will go, were a thousand sicknesses upon me. Tibert replied, You speak like a noble Gentleman, and methinks it is best now to go forward, for the Moon shines as bright as day. Nay, dear Cousin (said the Fox) let us take day before us, so may we encounter with our friends: the night is full of danger and suspicions. Well said the Cat, if it be your pleasure, I am content: what shall we eat? Reynard said truly my store is small, the best I have is a honey-comb, too pleasant and sweet, what think you of it? Tibert replied, it is meat I little respect, and seldom eat: I had rather have one Mouse, than all the honey in Europe. A Mouse (said Reynard) why my dear Cousin, here dwelleth a Priest hard by, who hath a Barn by his house so full of mice, that I think half the Mains in the Parish are not able to bear them. O dear Reynard (quoth the Cat) do but lead me thither, and make me your servant for ever: why (said the Fox) but love you mice so exceedingly? Beyond expression (quoth the Cat) why a mouse is beyond Menison, or the delicatest rates on Princes Tables: therefore conduct me thither, and command my friendship in any matter: had you slain my father, my mother: and all my kin, I would clearly forgive you.

of Reynard the FOX.

C H A P. VII.

How *Tibert* the Cat was deceived by *Reynard* the FOX.

THEN said Renayard, Sure you do but jest. No by my life said the Cat. Well then (quoth the Fox) if you be in earnest, I will so work, that this night will I fill your belly; 'tis not possible, said the Cat: then follow me, said the Fox, for I will bring you to the place presently: thus away they went with all speed to the Priest's Barn, which was well walled about with a mud-wall, where but the night before the Fox had broken in, and stole from the Priest an exceeding fat Hen; at which the Priest was so angry, that he had set a grin or snare before the hole, to catch him at his next coming which the false Fox knew perfectly, and therefore said to the Cat, Sir *Tibert*, creep in at this hole, and believe it you shall not tarry a minutes space, but you shall have more mice than you are able to devour: hark, you may hear how they squeek: when your belly is full, come again, and I will stay and wait for you here at this hole, that too morrow we may go together to the Court: but good Cousin stay not too long, for I know my Wife will hourly expect us. When (said the Cat) think you I may safely enter in at this hole? these Priests are wise and subtil, and couch their danger oft close, that rashness is soon overtaken. Alas Cousin *Tibert* (said the Fox) I never saw you turn coward before? what man, fear you a shadow? The Cat ashamed at his fear, sprang quickly in at the hole, but was presently caught fast by the neck in the Grin, which as soon as the Cat felt and perceived, he quickly leapt back again: so that the snare running close together, he was half strangled, so that he began to struggle and cry out, and exclaim most piteously: Reynard stood before the hole and heard

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heard all, at which he infinitely rejoiced, and in great scorn
said, Cousen Tibert, love you Mice? I hope they be well
fed for your sake? knew the Priest or Martinet of your
feasting, I know them of so good disposition, they would
bring

of Reynard the FOX.

bring you sauce quickly; methinks you sing at your meat, is that the Court-fashion? if it be, I would I might be coupled with you, that all my friends might be feasted together,

But all this while the poor Cat was fast, and mew'd so pitiously, that Martinet leapt out of his bed, and cryed to his people, Arise, for the thief is taken that hath stoln our Hens:

With these words the Priest unfortunately rose up, and awaked all in his house. crying, out the Fox is taken, the Fox is taken: and arising stark naked, he gave to Jullock his wife an offering candle to light, and then coming first to Tibert, he smote him with a great staff, and after him many others: so that the Cat received many deadly blows, and the anger of Martinet was so great, that he struck out one of the Cats eyes, which he did to second the naked Priest, thinking at one blow to dash out the Cats brains: but the Cat perceiving his death so near him, in a desperate mood he leapt between the Priests legs, and with his claws and teeth so fastned on his genitals, that in all the great Turks Seraglio, he was not a clearer Eunuch: which when dame Jullock his wife saw, she cryed out and smore, she had rather have lost the whole Offerings of one seven years, then that one poor little morsel: and withall curs'd that ever the Gin was invented: and calling Martinet, See, my Son, this thy Fathers delight, and my Jewel, but it is now spoiled, to his shame and my utter loss for ever: for howsoever he be cured, yet to me he can never more be comfortable.

All this while Reynard stood before the hole, and saw what passed, and laughed so extreamply, that his body was ready to break; saying to Dame Jullock, Fie Woman, do not torment your self so, the Priest hath lost but one stone, you may yet receive one benevolence. Now whilst the Fox thus scold'd the Priests Wife the

The Moral.

By the Fox insnaring the Cat is exprest, how when men will trust their enemies, or give credit to reconciled friends, they evermore miscarry in their designs, and therefore every wise man should so temper his affections, that he grow not fond of any thing in his enemies power, how agreeable soever it be, either with his nature or his pallat. For the baits of an enemy are only gilded Pills, which are fair to look on, but most bitter to taste. By the mischief which the Priest received, is shew'd that they which harm watch, harm catch; and that the trap which men now and then set for others, brings hurt to themselves.

poor

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poor Priest fell down in a swoond: so that every man left
the Cat to revive the Priest: which whilst they were do-
ing, the Fox returned home to Malepardus, for he imagi-
ned the Cat was past all hope of escape: but the poor Cat
seeing

of Reynard the F O X.

seeing all his foes busie about the Priest, he presently began to gnaw and bite the cord, till he had thared it quiet asunder in the midst, which done, he leapt out of the hole, and went roaring and tumbling (like the Bear) to the Kings Court. But befoze he got thither, it was far day, and the Sun being risen. he entred the Court, like the pitifullest Beast that ever was beheld. For by the Fox's craft, his Body was beaten and bruised, his bones shivered and broken; one of his eyes lost, and his skin rent and mangled. This when the King beheld, and saw Tibert so pitifully mangled, he grew infinitely angry, and took counsel once moze, how to revenge the injuries upon the Fox. After some consultation, Crimbard the Brock, Reynard's Sisters Son, said to the rest of the Kings Council, My good Lords, though my Uncle were twice as evil as these complaints make him, yet there is remedy enough against these mischiefs; therefore it is fit you do him Justice, as to a Man of his rank, which is, he must be the third time summoned, and then if he appear not, make him guilty of all that is laid against him. Then the King demanded of the Brock, whom he thought fittest to summon him, or who should be so desperate to hazard his hands, his ears, nay, his life, with one so tyrannous and irreligious? Truly (answered the Brock) if it please your Majesty, I am that desperate person, who dare adventure to carry the message to my most subtile Kinsman, if your Highness but command me.

C H A P. VIII.

How *Grimbard* the Brock was sent to bid the F O X.
to the C O U R T.

Then said the King, Go *Grimbard*, for I command you: yet take heed of *Reynard*, for he is subtile and malicious: The Brock thanked his Majesty, and so taking his humble leave, went to *Malepardus*, where he found *Reynard* & *Ernelin* his Wife, sporting with their young whelps, that having saluted his Uncle and his Aunt, he said, Take heed fair Uncle, that your

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C H A P. VIII.

How Grimbard the Brock was sent to bid the F O X.
to the C O U R T.

Then said the King, Go Grimbard, for I command you: yet take heed of Reynard, for he is subtile and malicious: The Brock thanked his Majesty, and so taking his humble leave went to Malepardus, where he found Reynard & Ermelin his Wife, sporting with their young whelps, that having saluted his Uncle and his Aunt, he said, Take heed fair Uncle, that
your

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The Moral. In the sending of the Brock to fetch the Fox, is shewed, that when the vicious cannot be overtaken and brought to answer, then it is meet to use their own weapons against them, and with policy, which can no way be better done than by employing their own kindred, and such as they most dearly affect, to perswade them, because Affection is ever a prevailing Orator.

your absence from the Court, add not more mischief to your cause, than the offence doth deserve: believe it, it is high time you appear at Court, since your delay doth bring but more danger and punishment: the complaints against you are infinite, and this is your third time of summons: Therefore your wisdom may tell you, that if you delay but one day further,



of Reynard the FOX.

there is not left to you nor yours any hope of mercy ; for within three days your Castle will be demolished, your kindred made slaves, and your self exempted for a publick example. Therefore my best Uncle, I beseech you recollect your wisdom, and go with me presently to the Court. I doubt not but your discretion will excuse you ; for you have past thorow many as eminent perils, and made your foes ashamed, whilst the Innocency of your cause hath bozned you spotless from the Tribunal. Reynard answered, Nephew, you say true, and I will be advised and go with you, not to answer offences, but in that I know the Court stands in need of my Counsel ; the Kings mercy I doubt not, if I may come to speak with his Majesty, though mine offences were ten times doubled ; for I know that the Court cannot stand without me, and that shall his Highness understand truly ; though I know I have many enemies, yet it troubles me not, for mine innocence shall awaken their injuries, and they shall know that in high matters of State and Policy, Reynard cannot be missing : They may well harp upon things, but the pitch and ground must come from my relation : It is the envy of others hath made me leave the Court ; for though I know their shallowness cannot disgrace me, yet may their multitudes oppresse me : Nevertheless (Nephew) I will go with you to the Court, and answer for my self, and not hazard the welfare of my Wife and Childzen ; the King is too mighty, and though he do me injury I will bear it with patience. This spoke, he turn'd to his Wife, and Dame Ermelin, have a care of my Childzen, specially Reynikin my youngest Son, for he has much of my love, and I hope will follow my steps ; and Rossel is passing hopeful, and I love him intirely ; therefore regard them, and if I escape, doubt not but my love shall requite you. At this leave-taking, Ermelin wept, and her Childzen howled ; for their Lord and Victual was gone, and Malepardus left unprovidid.

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CHAP. IX.

How *Raynard*, shrove him to *Grimbard* the Brock.

The Moral.
The shrift of
the Fox, shew-
eth, That
when evil
men are in
danger, than
they ever fain
most Religion;
and by a shew
of a penitence,
win pity from
all those that
dive not into
the depth of
their deceit
and knavery.
Whereby tho'
they be never
so evil, yet
they get a
good name,
and steal opi-
nion of the
multitude. By
the absolution
which the
Brock gave
the Fox, is
shewed, how
easily an ho-
nest simple
man may be
brought to be-
lieve a knaves
penance, and
how apt they
are to forgive
trespasses up-
on fained for-
row, which in-

WHEN *Reynard* and *Grimbard* had gone a good way
on their journey, *Reynard* stayed, and said, Dear
Nephew, blame me not if my heart be full of care, for
my life is in great hazard; yet to blot out my sins with
repentance and to cast off the burden, give me leave to
shrive my self unto you: I know you are holy; and ha-
ving received penance for my sin, my soul will be quiet.
Grimbard bid him proceed. Then said the Fox, Confite-
bor tibi Pater. Nay, said the Brock, if you will shrive to
me, do it in English that I may understand you: Then said
Reynard, I have grievously offended against all the Beasts
that live, and especially mine Uncle *Bruin* the Bear, whom
I lately massacred; and *Tibert* the Cat, whom I ensnared
in a Gin: I have trespassed against *Chantecler* and his
Children, and have devoured many of them; nay, the King
hath not been quit of my malice, for I have slandered him
and his Queen. I have betrayed *Isgrim* the Wolf, and cal-
led him Uncle, though no part of his blood ran in my veins.
I made him a Monk of *Esmance*, where I became also one of
the Order, only to do him open mischief. I made him bind
his foot in the Bell-rope to teach him to ring, but the Weil
had like to have cost him his life, the Men of the Parish beat
and wounded him so sore: after this I taught him to catch
Fish, but he was soundly beaten therefore and feeleth the
stripes at this instant. I led him to steal Bacon at a rich
Priests House, where he fed so extreamly, that not being
able to get out where he got in, I raised all the Town up-
on him, and then went where the Priest was set at Meat
with a fat Hen before him: which Hen I snatched away, so
that the Priest cried out, Kill the Fox, for never Man
saw any thing so strange, that the Fox should come into my
House, and take my Meat from before me: This is a bold-
ness beyond knowledge: and with these words he threw
his

of Reynard the FOX.



deed should not be done without a more strict and severe examination. The Fox's leading the Brock by the Monastery and taking the Capon, sheweth, that where wickedness is rooted and made as it were a habit, that there notwithstanding all, hypocrisie will still flash out, and a knave will be a knave in despite of all perswasions and good counsel.

his Knife at me, but he missed me, and I ran away, whilst he pursued me, crying, Kill the Fox, kill the Fox; and after him a world of People, whom I led to the place where Issegim was, and there I let my Hen fall, for it was too heavy for me (yet much against my will) and then springing through a hole, I got into safety. Now as the Priest took up the Hen, he espied Issegim, and then cried out, Strike, Friends, strike, here is the Wolf, by no means let him escape us: Then the People came all together with clubs and staves, and



and with a dreadful noise, giving the poor Wolf many a deadly blow, and some throwing stones after him, hit him such mortal blows on the body, that the Wolf fell down as if he had been dead; which perceived, they took him and drag'd him by the heels over stocks and stones, and in the end threw him into

of Reynard the FOX.

into a Ditch without the Village and there he lay all night, but how he got thence I know not. Another time I led him to a place where I told him were seven Cocks and Hens set on a pearch, all lusty and fat, and hard by the place stood a false dooz, on which we climed: Then I told him if he could creep in at that dooz, he should find the Hens. Then Isegrim with much ioy went laughing to the dooz, and entering in a little, and groping about, he said, Reynard you abuse me, for here is nothing: Then replied I, Uncle they are further, and if you will have them, you must adventure for them: Those which used to sit there, I my self had long since: at this the Wolf going a little further, I gave him a push forward, so that he fell down into the house, and his fall was so great, and made such anoise, that they which were asleep in the house, awaked and cried, that something was fallen down at the trap-dooz; whereupon they arose, and lighted a candle, espying him, they beat and wounded him to death. Thus I brought the Wolf to many hazards of his life, more then I can now either remember or reckon, which as they come to my mind, I will reveal to you hereafter. I have also grievously offended against Dame Arlewinde his Wife, of which I must repent me, for it was highly to her dishonour. Uncle, said Grimbard, I understand you not, you make your shrift unperfect; for you say you have offended, but declare not in what. Wardon me Nephew, I know you hate to hear the dishonour of Women: The truth is I have lain with her: Thus have I told you my Wickedness, now order my penance as shall seem fit in your discretion. Now Grimbard was both learned and wise, and therefore he cut a rod from a tree, and said, Uncle, you shall three times strike your body with this rod, then lay it down upon the ground, and spring three times over it without bowing of your legs, or stumbling: then shall you take it up, and kiss it gently, in sign of your meekness and obedience to your penance; which done, you are absolved of your sins committed to this day, for I pronounce unto you clear remission. At this the Fox was exceedingly glad, and then Grimbard said unto him, See that henceforth, Uncle, you do good works, read your Psalter, go to Church,

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Church, fast Virgils, keep Holy-days, giue alms, and leaue
your sinful and evil life, your theft and your treason, and then
no doubt you shall obtain mercy. The Fox promised to per-
form all this; and so they went together towards the Court.
But a little besides the way as they went, stood a Religious
house of Nuns, where many Geese, Hens and Capons, went
without the wall: and as they went talking the Fox led Grim-
bard out of his right way to that place. and finding the Wulfe
walking without the Barn, amongst which was a fat young
Capon, which strayed a little from his fellows: at which he
suddenly leapt, and caught him by the feathers, which flew a-
bout his ears; but the Capon escaped: which Grimbard see-
ing, said Accursed man, what will you do, will you for a silly
Wulfe fall again into all your sins? mischief it self would
not do it: to which Reynard answered, Wardon me dear Ne-
phew, I had forgotten my self, but I will ask forgiveness
and mine eye shall no more wander. And then they turned over



of Reynard the F O X.

a little Bridg; but the Fox still glancing his eye towards the Bullen, and could by no means refrain it; for the ill that was bred in his bones still stuck to his flesh, and his mind carried his eyes that way as long as he could see them: which the Brock noting, said Fie, dissembling Cousin why wander your eyes so after the Bullen? The Fox replied, Nephew, you do me injury so to mistake me, for mine eyes wandred not, but I was saying a Pater Noster for the Soules of all the Bullen and Geese which I have slain and betrayed, in which Devotion you hindzed me. Well, said Grimbard, it may be so, but your glances are suspicious. Now by this time they were come into the way again, and made hast towards the Court, which as soon as the Fox saw, his Heart quaked for fear: for he knew well the crimes he was to answer, for they were infinite and banious.

C H A P. X.

How the Fox came into the Court, and how he excused himself.

AS soon as it was bzuitied in the Court that Reynard the Fox, and Grimbard his Kinsman were arrived there, every one from the highest to the lowest, prepared himself to complain of the Fox: at which Reynards heart quaked, but his countenance kept the old garb, and he went as pzoudly as ever he was wont, with his Nephew thzew the street, and came as gallantly into the Court, as if he had been the Kings Son, and as clear from trespass, as the most innocent what-soever: and when came befoze the Chair of State, in which the King sate, he said, Heaven give your Majesty Glozy and Renown abobe all the Princes of the Earth: I assure your Highness there is never King had a truer servant than my self have been to you, and yet am, and so will die: Nevertheless (Mydzead Lord) I know there be many in this Court that seek my confusion, if they could win belief in your Majesty; but you scozn the slanders of malice, and although in these

J

Days

of Reynard the FOX.



The Moral. Days, flatters have the most room in Princes Courts, yet with you it is not so, nor shall they reap any thing but shame for their labour. But the King cut him short at these words, and said, Peace, traitorous Reynard, I know your dissimulation, and can expound your flattery, but both shall now fail you: think you I can be caught with the musick of your words? No, it hath too often deceived me: the Peace which I commanded and sware unto, that have you broken. And for all men that have been injured, to their utter complaints, because then only redress is to be had. In the Lion is exprest the lawfulness of Justice, and how terrible it is to every offender, especially such as have the guilt of Conscience within them. The Foxe's bold behaviour shews, That impudent Malefactors when they are called in question, make audacity their chief guard; and by railing against their adversaries, do seek to extenuate the looseness of their offences; but Truth and Justice will not be hood-wink'd.

of Reynard the FOX.

as he would have gone forward, Chantecleer cryed out, & how have I lost this noble Peace, be still Chantecleer (said the King) and then he proceeded. Thou Devil among good ones; with what face canst thou say thou lovest me, and seest all those wretched Creatures ready to disprove thee: whose very wounds yet spit bloody defiance upon thee: and for which believe, thy dearest life shall answer; In nomine Patris, &c. said the Fox, My dread Lord, if Bruin's crown be bloody, what is that to me? If your Majesty employed him in a message, and he would neglect it to steal Honey at the Carpenter's House, where he received his wounds, how shall I amend it? If revenge be sought, why did he not take it himself? He is strong and puissant, it was not for to be looked on as my weakness. As for Tibert the Cat (whom I received with all friendship) if he against my will or advice, will steal into the Priest's Barn to catch Mice, and there lose his eyes, nay, his life, wherein is my offence? or how become I their Guardian? O my dread Lord, you may do your Royal pleasure; and howeever mine innocency plead, yet your will may adjudge me to what death contents you: I am your Vassal, and have no support but your mercy: I know your strength and mine own weakness, and that my death can yield you but small satisfaction: yet whatsoever your will is, that to me shall be most acceptable. And as he thus spake, Bellin the Ram kept forth, and his Ewe-dame Ofeway, and besought the King to hear their complaint; with them Bruin the Bear, and all his mighty lineage: And Tibert the Cat, Hecgrim the Wolf, Kayward the Hare, and Panther the Booz, the Cammel, and Bruel the Goose, the Kid and the Colt, Bauldwin the Ass, Bortel the Bull, and Hammel the Oxe, the Measel, Chantecleer the Cock, and Pattlet with all her Children. All these with one entire noise cried out against the Fox, and so moved the King with their complaint, that the Fox was taken and arrested.

The Pleasant History

C H A P. XI.

How the Fox was arrested and judged to DEATH.

UPon this Arrest a Parliament was called, and every voice went that Reynard should be executed: notwithstanding he answered every objection severall, though great Art was used both in the one and the other, to the wonderful admiration of all that heard him: But witnesses examined and every proof made pregnant, the Fox was condemn'd and judgment was given, that he should be hanged till his body was dead. At which sentence the Fox cast down his head for all his Jollity was lost; and no flattery no noz words now prevailed. This done, Grimbold his Nephew, and divers others near him in blood (which could not endure to see him die) took their leave of the King and departed from the Court. When the King noted what gallant young Gentlemen departed thence all sad and weeping, being near of the Foxes blood and alliance, he said to himself, It behobeth us to take good mature Counsel; though Reynard have some faults, he hath many Friends and moze Virtues. As the King was thus thinking, the Cat said to the Bear, Sir Bruin and you Sir Hegrim, Why are you so slow in this Execution: the evening is almost come, and here be many Bushes and Hedges, if he escape and quit himself of this danger, his subtilty is so great, that not all the Art in the World shall ever again intangle him: If you mean to execute him, then proceed, for before the Gallows can be made, it will be dark night. At these words Hegrim remembering himself, said There is a pair of Gallows near at hand (and with that fetch'd a deep sight) whch he noting, said, Are you affraid Sir Hegrim? or is this Execution against your mind? you may remember it only was his work, that both your Brethren were hanged: and sure had you Judgment, you would hang him for the same, and not thus stand trifling time. But Hegrim, half angry, answered, Your anger puts out the eye of your reason; yet had we a halter that would fit his neck, we would soon dispatch him, Reynard that had been
Silent

of Reynard the FOX.

Went a great while, said, I beseech you shorten my pain: Sir
Thert hath a cord strong enough, in which himself was



hang'd at the Priest's House, when he bit off the Priest's geni-
tals: besides he can climb well and swift: Let him be mine
executioner, for it neither becometh Isegrim nor Bruin thus

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The Moral. By the violence of the Bear, the Wolf, and the Crow, in pursuing the Fox to death, and making themselves executioners, is shew'd the great malice of great Persons against their enemies, and such from whom they have received mischief, in which they will many times rather hazard their honours than their revenges, so blind is wrath, and so deformed it makes men that are clothed therewith. The Fox's patience and mild temper, shews, That when men are in extremity, they must make use of all their virtues, especially meekness, for that soonest doth influence with mens natures, and draws forth pity.

to do with their Nephew: I am sorry I live to see it. But since you are set to be my hangman, play your part, and delay not: go before Bruin and lead my way; follow Igrim, and beware I escape not: You say well, said Bruin, and it is the best counsel I have heard you give. So forth they went, and Igrim and all his friends guarded the Fox, leading him by the neck, and other parts of the body: when the Fox felt this usage, he was dismayed, yet, said, Why do you put your selves (my best Kinsman) to this pain, to do me hurt? Believe it I could well ask you forgiveness, though my pains be pleasant unto you: yet well I know, did my Aunt your Wife, understand of my trouble, she would for old affection sake not see me thus tormented. But I am subject to your will, and can endure your worst mallice: as for Bruin and Tibert, I leave my revenge to Justice, and with you the reward of Traytors, if you do not to me the worst of your powers: I know my worst fortune, and death can come but once unto me; I wish it were past already, for to me it is no terror: I saw my Father die, and how quickly he vanished, therefore the worst of death is familiar unto me. Then said Igrim, let us go, for his curse shall not light on me by delaying: So he on the one side, and Bruin on the other, led the poor Fox to the Gallows; Tibert running before with the Halter, hoped to be revenged of his wrong formerly received. When they were come to the place of Execution, the King and Queen, and all the rest of the Nobility, took their place to see the Fox die. Then Reynard full of sorrow, and busily bethinking himself how he might escape that danger, and how to enlarge and disgrace his proude enemies, and also how to draw the King on his party, saying to himself, Though the King and many others be offended with me, as they have reason, for I have thoroughly deserved it; nevertheless yet I hope to live to be their best friend. During this meditation the Wolf said, Sir Bruin, now remember your injuries, take your revenge in a full measure, for the day is come which I wish for; Tibert ascend quickly and bring the Rope to the Gallows, making a running noose, for this day you shall have your will of your Enemy: and good Sir Bruin take heed to escape

The Pleasant History

escape not, whilst I my self raise up the Ladder. When all things were prepared, the Fox said, Now may my heart be heavy, for Death stands now in all its horroz before me, and I cannot escape: my dread Lord the King, and you my soveraign Lady the Queen, and you my Lords that stand to behold me die, I beseech you grant me this charitable boon, that I may unlock my Heart before you, and clear my Soul of her burdens, so that hereafter no Man may be blamed for me; which done, my death will be easie, and the assistance of your Prayers will raise my Soul to Heaven.

Whereas
roughness e-
ver increaseth
mischief.

C H A P. XII.

How Reynard made his Confession before the KING.

Very Creature now took compassion on the Fox, and said his request was small, beseeching the King to grant it: which was done. And then the Fox thus spake: Help me, Heaven! for I see no Man here whom I have not offended: yet was this evil no natural inclination in me, for in my Youth I was accounted as vertious as any breathing: this know, I plaid with the Lambs all the day long, and took delight in their pretty bleating; yet at last in my play I bit one, and the taste of the Blood was so sweet, that since I could never forbear it: This liquorish humour drew me into the Woods among the Goats, where hearing the bleating of the little Kids, I slew one of them, and after two more, which slaughter made me so hardy, that when I fell to murder Hens, Geese and other Poultry. And thus my crimes increased by custom, and fury so possess me that all was Fish which came to my net. After this (in the Winter season) I met with Hecgrim, whereas he lay hid under a hollow Tree, and he unfolded unto me how he was my Uncle, and laid the Pedegree down so plain, that from that day forth we became Fellows and Companions: which knot of friendship I may ever curse, for then began the flood of our thefts and slaughters: he stole the

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the great things, & the small, he murdered Nobles, &
the meanest Subjects: and in all his actions his share full



was ever the greatest: when he got a Ram, a Calf,
Mether, his fury would hardly afford me the horns to p
on: nay, when he had an Ore, or a Cow, after himself,

of Reynard the FOX.

Wife and his seven Childzen were serbed, nothing remained to me but the bare bones to pick on. This I spake not in that I wanted (for it is well known I have more Plate, Jewels, and Coyne, than twenty Carts are able to carry) but only to shew his ingratitude. When the King heard him speak of this infinite Treasure and Riches, his Heart grew inflamed with desire thereof: and he said Reynard where is that Treasure you speak of? The Fox answered, My Lord I will willingly tell you; for it is true, the Wealth was stoln, and had it not been stoln in that that manner as it was, it had cost your Highness his life (which Heavens I beseech keep ever in your protection.) When the Queen heard that dangerous speech, she started and said, What dangers are these you speak of, Reynard? I do command you upon your Soules health, to unfold these doubtful speeches, and to keep nothing concealed which concerns the life of my dread Lord. The Fox with a sorrowful and sad countenance replied to the Queen, O my dread Soberaign Lady, at what infinite ease were I, if I might dye at this present? but gracious Madam, your conjuration, and the health of mine own Soul, so prevaileth with me, that I will discharge my Conscience, and yet speak nothing but what I will make good with the hazard of Damnation. 'Tis true the King should have been piteously murdered by his own People, and I must confesse, by those of my nearest Kindred, whom I am unwilling to accuse, did not the health of mine own Soul, and the fealty to the King command the contrary: The King much perplext at this discovery, said, is this true Reynard, which you protest? the Fox answered, Alas, my dread Lord, you see the case wherein I stand, and how small a sand is left in my poor Glass to run: Can your Majesty imagine I will now dissemble? what can the whole World avail me, when my Soul perisheth? and at that he trembled, and look'd so pitifully, that the Queen had great compassion of him, and humbly besought the King for the safety of his own Royal Person to take some pity of the Fox, and command all his Subjects to hold their peace, and keep silent till he had spoke the uttermost of his knowledge: all which was presently done, and the Fox proceeded in this manner: Since it is the pleasure of my Soberaign

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The Moral. By the Fox's confession and accusation of his enemies, is expressed a threefold subtilty in the Fox: First, by his voluntary confession of his faults, is shewed his sorrow for the same, and the little hope he had of life; which piercing into the weak nature of the Queen, being a Woman, and subject to pity, begot much compassion towards him. 2. The accusing of those whom he was known most assuredly to love, was a mean to draw belief to that he spake. 3. The ingaging of the life of the King and making the Treason so foul, was a way to fright the Queen, and others of the like tenderness of heart, and to bring his enemies into disgrace and

Lord the King, and that his Royal Life lieth in the balance with my present death, I will freely and boldly unfold this capital and foul Treason, and in the relation not spare any guilty Person for any respect whatsoever, whether in Blood, Greatness or Authority: Know then, my dread Sovereign Lord the King, that my Father by a strange accident, digging in the ground, found out King Ermedick's Treasure; being a Mass infinite and innumerable, of which being possess, he grew so proud and haughty; that he beheld in scorn all the Beasts of the Wilderness, which before had been his Kinsmen and Companions; at last he caused Tibert the Cat to go into the vast Forrest of Arden to Bruin the Bear, and to render him his Homage and Fealty; saying, If it would please him to be King, he should come into Flanders, where my Father received him nobly. Then presently he sent for his Wife, Grimbard my Nephew, and for Isgrim the Wolf, and for Tibert the Cat: then these five comming between Gaunt and the Millage called Elte, they held a solemn Council for the space of a whole Night: in which, by the assistance of the Devil, and the strong confidence of my Fathers Riches, it was there concluded, that your Majesty should be forthwith murdered, which to effect, they took a solemn Oath in this manner: The Bear, my Father, Grimbard, and the Cat, laying their hands on Isgrim's Crown, swore first to make Bruin their King, and to place him in the Chair of Estate at Acon, and to set the Imperial Diadem on his Head: and if by any of your Majesties Blood and Alliance they should be gain-sayed, that then my Father with his Treasure should hire those that should utterly chase and root them out of the Forrest. Now after this determination held and finished, it hapened that my Nephew Grimbard being on a time high-flown with Wine, he discovered this damnable Plot to Dame Slopard his Wife, commanding her up her life to keet secret the same, but she forgetful of her charge, disclosed it in confession to my Wife, as they went a Pilgrimage ober an Heath, with like conjuration of secrecie: but she (woman-like) contained it no longer then till she met with me, and gave me a full knowledge of all that passed; yet so, that by all

of Reynard the FOX.

all means I must keep in secret too: for he had sworn by the three Kings of Cullen never to disclose it: and withal he gave me such assurance by certain tokens, that I right well found all was true which he had spoken, insomuch, that the very affright thereof made my Hair stand upright, and my Heart became like Lead, cold and heavy in my Bosome, which made me call to mind the Story of the Frogs, who being free without subjection, complained to Jupiter, and desired they might have a King to rule and govern over them, and he presently sent them a Stork which eat and devoured them up: so that by his Tyranny they became the most miserable of all Creatures: then they complained again to Jupiter for redress, but it was then too late; for they that could not be content with their freedom, must now of necessity suffer in thraldom.

Thus I feared it might happen with us, and thus I sorrowed for your Majesty, although you little respect my grieving: I know that the ambition of the Bear and his Tyranny is so great, that should the Government come into his Hands (as Heaven forbid) the whole Common-wealth will be destroyed: Besides, I know your Majesty of so Royal and Princely Birth, so Mighty, so Gracious, and so Merciful, that it had been a damnable exchange, to have seen a ravenous Bear to sit in the Throne of a Royal Lion; for there is in the Bear and in his Generation, more prodigal looseness and inconstancy, than in any Beast whatsoever.

But to proceed, from this sorrow I began to meditate how I might undo my Fathers false and wicked Conspiracies, who sought to bring a Traytor and a Slave into the Throne Imperial: for I well perceived, as long as he held the Treasure, there was a possibility of deposing your Majesty, and this troubled my thoughts exceedingly, so that I laboured how I might find out where my Fathers Treasure was hid, and to that end I watch'd and attended Night and Day in the Woods, in the Bushes, and in the open fields: nay, in all places wheresoever my Father turn'd his Eyes, there was I ever watching and attending.

scandal, where-
in the Fox
sheweth that
he that will
slander, or will
have any un-
truth believed,
must first
strengthen his
opinion with
pity, then get
belief, & lastly
exercise his
mischief; a-
gainst all
which a wise
Man will shut
his ears, as the
Lion did; if he
be not over-
tempted by
those he loves,
as the Lion was
by the Queen
and his own
covetousness,
in desiring
that infinite
Treasure, than
which there is
nothing draws
a man sooner
to the belief of
untruth and of
falshood: for
what a man
desires, that his
own desire
will make him
credit; and
where such
credit is given,
there com-
monly the
wicked escape
from punish-
ment, as here
it fell out with
the Fox.

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Now it happened on a time as I was laid flat down on the ground, I saw my father come running out of a hole,



and as soon as he was come out, he gazed round about him, to see if any discovered him; then seeing the coast clear, he stopped

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kind
be in

of Reynard the FOX.

stopped the hole with sand, and made it so eben, smooth, and plain, that no curious Eye could discern a difference betwixt it and the other Earth: and where the print of his Foot remained, that with his Tail he stroked over, and with his Mouth so smoothed it, that no Man might perceibe it: and indeed that and many other subtilties I learned of him there at that instant; when he had thus finished, away he went towards the Village about his private affairs: then when I presently towards the hole, and notwithstanding all his subtilty, I quickly found it out; then entered I the Cave, where I found that innumerable quantity of Treasure, which cannot be expressed: which found, I took Emelin my Wife to help me, and we ceast not Day nor Night, with infinite great toyle and labour, to carry and convey away this Treasure to another place, much more convenient for us, where we laid it safe from the search of any Creature. Now during the time that my Wife and I were thus employed, my Father was in consultation with the rest of the Traytors about the death of the King: in which Consultation it was concluded that Hegrin the Wolf should travel over all the Kingdom, and promise to all the Beasts that would take wages, and acknowledge Bruin for their Sovereign; and defend his Title, a full Years pay before-hand. And in this journey my Father accompanied him, carrying Letters Patents signed to that purpose, little suspecting that he was rob'd of the wealth that should supply his Treason: when this Negotiation was finished betwixt Elve and Soam, and a world of valiant Souldiers raised against the beginning of the next Spring: then they returned to Bruin and his Consorts, to whom they declared the many perils they had escaped in the Dukedom of Saxony, where they were pursued by Huntsmen and Hounds: so as they hardly escaped with life: after this relation, they shewed Bruin the Muster-rolls, which pleased him exceeding much, for here was of Hegrims lineage about twelve hundred sworn to the action, besides the Bears own kindred, the Foxes, the Cats, and the Dassens, all which would be in readiness upon an hours warning. All this I found out.

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but (I praise Heaven) by perfect intelligence: Now things being brought to this perfection, my Father went to his Cate of Treasure: but when he found it open, spoiled, and ransack'd, it is not in me to expzeſs the infinite agony and ſorrow he fell into that Grief cōverting to Madneſs, and Madneſs to Deſperation, ſuddenly he went to the next Tree and hanged himſelf.

Thus by my Art only was the treason of Bruin defeated, for which I now ſuffer: from hence ſprang all miſfortune, as thus, Theſe ſoul Traytors Bruin and Ifegrim, being of the Kings Privateſt Council and ſitting in high and great Authority tread upon me poor Reynard, and work my diſgrace: notwithstanding for your Majesties ſake, I have loſt my natural Father. O my dread Lord! what is he, or who can tender you better affection, thus to loſe himſelf to ſave you? The King and Queen having great hope to get this inestimable Treasure from Reynard, took him from the Gibbet, and entreated him to unfold where this great Treasure was. But the Fox replied, O my Lord, ſhall I make mine Enemies my Heirs? ſhall theſe Traytors which take away my life, and would devour yours, be poſſeſs of the good I enjoy? No, that is a madneſs I'll never dye guilty of. Then ſaid the Queen, fear not Reynard, the King ſhall ſave your life, and grant you pardon, and you ſhall henceforth ſwear Faith and true Allegiance to his Majesty. The Fox answered, Deareſt Madam, if the King out of his Royal nature will give credit to my truth, and forgive my former offences, there was never King ſo rich as I will make him. When the King ſtaying the Queen ſaid, Madam will you believe the Fox? know you not that it is his natural quality to lye, ſteal, and deceive? The Queen answered, My dear Lord, now you may boldly believe him, for however in his Proſperity he was full of errors, yet now you may ſee he is changed: Why, he ſpareth not to accuſe his own Father, nay, Grimbard his deareſt Nephew and Kinſman? had he diſſembled, he might have laid his imputation on other Beasts, and not on thoſe he loveth moſt intirely. Well, Madam (ſaid the King) you ſhall at this time rule me,
and

of Reynard the FOX.

all the offences of the Fox I will clearly pardon: yet with
his Protestation, That if ever again he offend in the smal-
lest crime whatsoever, that not only himself, but his whole
Generation, I will utterly root out of my Dominions. The
Fox looked sadly when the King spake thus (but was in-
wardly most infinitely glad at his Heart) and said, My dread
Lord, it were a huge shame in me, should I speak any un-
truths in this great Presence. Then the King taking a
straw from the ground, pardoned the Fox of all his trespass-
ses which either he, or his Father, had ever committed:
If the Fox now began to smile, it was no wonder, the sweet-
ness of life required it: yet he fell down before the King
and Queen, and humbly thanked them for their Mercy, pro-
testing that for that favour he would make them the richest
Princes in the World. And at these words the Fox took
up a straw, and proffered it unto the King, and said to
him, My dread Lord, I beseech your Majesty to receive this
Vledg, as a surrender unto your Majesty of all the Treasure
that the great King ERMETICK was master of, with
which I freely enfeoffe you out of my meer voluntary and
free motion. At these words the King received the straw,
and smiling, gave the Fox great thanks for the same. But
the Fox laughed out right to think of the abuse. From that
day forward no mans counsel prevailed with the King as
the Foxes; which the Fox seeing, said to the King, My
gracious Lord, you shall understand, that at the West side
of FLANDERS there standeth a Wood called HUS-
TERLOE, near which runneth a River named CRE-
KENPIT: this is a Wilderness so vast, and unpassa-
ble, that hardly in all the Year there cometh either Man
or Woman in the same. In it have I hid this Treasure,
whither I would have your Majesty and the Queen to go,
for I know none but your selves whom I dare trust in so
great a designe: and when your Highness comes thither,
you shall find two Birchin trees growing by the pit, into
which you shall enter, and there you shall find the Treas-
ure, which consisteth of the Coyne, rich Jewels, and the
wealthy Crown which King Eimerick wore. With which
Crown

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Croton Btwin the Bear should have been Crotoned, if his Treason had succeeded according to his determination: there shall you see also many rich and costly precious stones, of which when you are possesse, then remember the love of your Servant Reynard. The King answered, Sir Reynard, you must your self help to dig for this Treasure, for else I shall never find it. I have heard named Paris, London, Acon and Cullen, but Erekpenpit I never heard of: therefore I fear you dissemble. The Fox blushed at those words, yet with a bold countenance he said, As your Majesty so doubtful of my Faith? nay, then I will approve my words by publick Testimony: and with that he called forth Kayward the Hare from amongst the rest of the Beasts, and commanded him to come before the King, charging him upon his Faith and Alleageance which he bore to the King and Queen, to answer truly to such questions as he should ask him. The Hare answered, I will speak truth in all things, though I were sure to dye for the same. Then the Fox said, Know you not where Erekpenpit standeth? Yes, said the Hare, I have known it any time this Dozen years, it standeth in a Wood called Husterloe, upon a vast and wide Wilderness, where I have endured much torment both of hunger and cold: Besides, it was there where Father Simon the Fryer made false Coyne, with which he supported himself and his fellows: Yet that was before I and King the Hound became Companions. Well, said the Fox, you have spoken sufficiently: go to your place again: so away went the Hare. Then said the Fox, My Soberaign Lord the King, what say you now to my Relation: am I worthy of your belief or no? the King said, Yes Reynard, and I beseech thee excuse my jealousies, it was my ignorance which did thee evil: therefore forthwith make preparation that we may go to the Pit where this Treasure lyeth. The Fox answered, Alas my Lord, do you imagine that I would not faine go with you, if it were so that I might go without your dishonour, which I cannot do: For you shall understand (though it be my disgrace) that when Isegrim the Wolf, in the Devil's name, would needs grow religious

of Reynard the FOX.

and turn a Monk, that then the portion of Meat which was for six Monks was to little for him alone. Whereupon he complained so pitifully unto me, that I commiserating his case, (being my kinsman) gave him counsel to run away, which he did. Whereupon I stand Accursed and Excommunicated, under the Pope's Sentence, and am determined to Morrow as soon as the Sun ariseth, to take my way towards Rome to be absolved; and from Rome I intend to cross the Seas into the Holy-land, and will never return again into my Native Country till I have done so much good, and satisfied for my Sins, that I may with Honour and Reputation attend on your Highness Person. The King hearing this, said, Since you stand Accursed in the Censures of the Church, I may not have you about me, and therefore I will at this time take Kayward the Hare, and some other with me to Crekenpit, and only command you, Reynard, as you respect my Favour, to clear your self of his Holiness Curse. My Lord (said the Fox) it is the only reason of my going to Rome: neither will I rest Night nor Day, till I have gotten a full Absolution. The course you take is good (said the King) go on and prosper in your intent and purpose.

C H A P. XIII.

How Reynard the Fox was Honoured of all Beasts
by the King's Commandment.

AS soon as the Conference was ended, the Royal King mounted upon his high Throne, made in manner of a Scaffold, made of fair square Stone, and commanded a general silence amongst all his Subjects, and then every one should take his place according to his Birth or Dignity in Office, only the Fox was placed between the King and the Queen. Then said the King, Hear all you Noblemen, Knights, Gentlemen, and others of inferiour quality, This Reynard, one of the Chief and Supreme Officers of my
Household,

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Houshold whose offences had brought him to the last reckon-
ing of his life, as being in the hands of the Law and Justice,



hath this Day, in requital of those Injuries, done that
Noble and Worthy Service to the State, that both my
Self and my Queen, stand bound to render him our best
Grace and Favour. Therefore know, That for diuer
thing,

of Reynard the FOX.

things best known unto our selves, we have freely giben pardon to all his Offences, and restored back to him whatso-
 ever to Us was confiscate: therefore henceforth I Com-
 mand all of you, upon the pain and hazard of your dearest
 Lives, That you fail not, from this Day forward, to do
 all Reberence and Honour, not only to Reynard himself,
 but also to his Wife and Children, whensoever, or where-
 soever, you shall meet them, whether by Night or by Day:
 Nor that any one hereafter be so audacious, as to trouble
 mine Ears with any more Complaints of him; for his
 Wickedness he hath cast behind him, and will no more be
 guilty of Wrong-doing: which to effect the better, to
 Morrow very early, he taketh his Journey towards Rome,
 where, from the Pope, he will purchase a Free Pardon
 and Indulgence for all his Offences, and then the Pilgri-
 mage to the Holy-Land. This Speech, when Tisellin the
 Raven heard, he flew to Bruin, Isegrim, and Tibert, and
 said, Wretched Creatures! how are your Fortunes chang-
 ed? or how can you endure to hear these Tydings? Why
 Reynard is now a Courtier, a Chancelloz, nay, the prime
 Favourite: his Offences are forgiven, and you are all be-
 trayed, and sold unto Bondage. Isegrim answered, It is
 impossible, Tisellin, nor can such a thing be suffered: Do
 not deceive your selves (said the Raven) for it is as true
 as that now I speak it. Then went the Wolf and the
 Bear to the King, but the Cat staid, and was so sore
 affrighted with the News, that to purchase the Foxes
 Friendship again, she would not only have forgiven the
 Evils received, but willingly have run into a second ha-
 zard. But now Isegrim, with great Majesty and Pride,
 tracing over the Fields, came before the King and Queen,
 and with the most bitter and cruel words, inveighed a-
 gainst the Fox in such a passionate and impudent man-
 ner, that the King being infinitely moved with displea-
 sure, caused the Wolf and the Bear to be presently Ar-
 rested upon High-Treason: which suddenly was done with
 all violence and fury, and they were bound Hand and
 Foot so fast that they could neither stir nor move from
 the place where they were couched. For when the Fox

The Moral.
 By this Honour
 done to the
 Fox you may
 see, that when
 Policy and
 Wisdom get
 the upper hand
 of their Ene-
 mies, it never
 resteth till it
 maketh known
 to the World
 the greatness
 of their Con-
 quest, both to
 expresse their
 Ambition, as
 also to extenu-
 ate their
 Crimes, and
 keep their
 Foes in awe
 with the good-
 ly shews of
 new Grace and
 favour. By the
 complaint of
 the Raven, is
 shewed the
 Jealousie and
 Fear of the
 weaker sort,
 and how in
 their Troubles
 they fly to the
 Heads of Facti-
 on, and stir
 them with
 their own safe-
 ties to prevent
 evils. By the
 Wolf and the
 Bear's Com-
 mitment, is
 shewed, that
 when Men
 complain in

The Pleasant History

complain in
unreasonable
times, they e-
ver run them
selves into
most apparent
and grievous
mischiefs.

had thus in thralled and intangled them, he so laboured with
the Queen, that he got leave to have so much of the Bear's
skin as would make him a large Scrip for his Journey:



which granted, he wanted nothing but a strong pair of
Shoes to defend his Feet from the Stones in his travel:
Where:

of *Reynard* the F O X.

Whereupon he said to the Queen, Madam, I am your Pilgrim; and if it would please your Majesty but to take it into your Consideration, you shall find that Sir *Isegrim* hath a pair of excellent long lasting ones, which would you boughsafe to bestow upon me, I would pray for your Majesty's Soul in all my travel about my charitable Devotion. Also mine Aunt, Dame *Arsewind*, hath other two Shooes, which would your Majesty bestow upon me, I should be most infinitely bound to you, nor should you do to her any wrong, because she goes seldom abroad. The Queen replied, *Reynard*, I cannot perceive but you should want such Shooes, for your Journey is full of labour and difficulty, both respect of the stoney Mountains, and the gravelly Ways; and therefore you shall have (though it touch their Life never so nearly) from each of them a pair of Shooes, to accomplish and finish your Journey.

C H A P. XIV.

How *Isegrim* and his Wife *Arsewind* had their Shooes pluck'd off for *Reynard* to wear to *Rome*.

After the Fox had made this Petition, *Isegrim* was taken and his Shooes pulled off in most cruel and violent manner, so that all the Veins and Sinews lay naked: nor durst the poor massacred Wolf either complain or resist. After he had been thus tormented, then Dame *Arsewind*, his Wife, was used on the same manner on her hinder feet, as her Husband was on his fore feet; which the Fox seeing, said to her in a scornful manner, Dear Aunt, how much am I bound to you, that takes all this pains for my sake? questionless you shall be a sharer in my Pilgrimage, and take part in the Hardon I shall bring from beyond the Seas by the help of your Shooes. Then *Arsewind* (though Speech were troublesome to her) said, Well, Sir *Reynard*, you have your will accomplisht; yet Heaven (I hope) will requite the misdeed. This she said, but her Husband and the Bear lay mute, for their wounds were grievous unto them: and surely had the Cat been there also,

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The Moral. In the spoiling the Bear of his Skin, and the Wolf of his Shoes, is shewed both the Malice of a revengful Enemy, that never thinks his Fee weakned enough, till he be utterly ruined; as also the Indiscretion of an over-angry Nature, that cannot stay to give his Wrongs advantage, but utters his Spleen before he can either get relief or remedy. By the Ceremonies done to the Fox, and the Curiosity of the Ram, is shewed, that in cases of indifferency where Authority hath power to command, for any Man to stand upon nice and puritanical terms with his Superiours, doth not only breed Reprehension, but Punishment.

also, he had not escaped some extream punishment. The next Morning, very early, Reynard causing his Shoes to be well oyl'd, put them on, and made them as fit to his Feet, as they were to the Wolf, and then went to the King and Queen, and said, My Lord and Lady, your pooz Subject boweth himself befoze your Majesties, humbly beseeching your Highness to deliver me my Male and my Staff, blest, according to the custom due unto Pilgrims.

This said, the King sent for Bellin the Ram, and commanded him to say solemn Mass befoze the Fox, and to deliver him his Staff, and his Male: but the Ram refused, saying, My Lord, I dare not, for he hath confessed he is in the Pope's Curse: and the King said, What of that? Have not our Doctors told us, That if a Man commit all the Sins in the World, yet if he repent himself, be stricken, do penance, and walk as the Priests shall instruct him, that all is clearly forgiven him? And hath not Reynard done all this? Then answered Bellin, Sir, I am loath to meddle herein; your Majesty will bear me harmless against the Bishop of Prendelor (my Ordinary) and against the Arch-Deacon of Loof-wind, and Rapiamus his Official, I will effect your Commandment. At this the King grew angry, and said, I scorn to be beholding to you: But when the Ram saw the King offended, he shook for fear, and ran presently to the Altar, and sung Mass, and used many Ceremonies over the Fox, who gave little respect unto them, more than the desire he had to enjoy the Honour. And when Bellin the Ram had finished his Orisons, he presently hung about Reynard's Neck his Male, which was made of the Bear's Skin, and put into his right Foot a Walmer's Staff: and thus being furnished of all things, he looked sably upon the King, as if he had been loath to depart; and fained to weep, (though sorrow and he were never further asunder) only his worst grief was, that all in that presence were not in the same case that the Bear and the Wolf were; yet he took his leave of them, and desired every one to pray for him, as he would pray for them: and then offering to depart, (for knowing his own knavery, he was very desirous to be gone) the King said, Sir Reynard, I am sorry we must

of Reynard the F O X.

must part thus suddenly: Then said the Fox, There is no remedy, my Lord, nor ought I to be slow in so devout an action. Then the King took leave, and commanded all that were about him (but the Bear and the Wolf) to attend Reynard some part of his Journey. He that had seen how gallant and personable Reynard was, and how well his Staff and his Male became him, as also how fit his Shoes were for his Feet, it could not have chosen but have stirred in him very much laughter: Yet the Fox carried himself outwardly very demurely: however inwardly he smiled at the abuses he had cast among them; especially to see his Enemies now his Attendants, and the King, whom he had most palpably wronged with false lies, to be aiding to all his vain desires, did accompany him also as if they had been his Companions. But the Fox being now onward his way, he said to the King, I beseech your Majesty trouble your self no further, but have respect to your ease, and the danger that might happen to your Royal Person: for you have Arrested two capital Traytors, who if in your absence they should get at liberty, the danger were infinite which might ensue thereon. And this said, he stood upon his hinder Feet, and intreated the Beasts that were in his company, and would be partakers of his Wardon that they would pray for him: which done, he departed from the King with an exceeding sad and heavy countenance: Then turning to Kayward the Hare, and Bellin the Ram, he said, with a smiling countenance, My best Friends, shall we part thus soon? I know your loves will not leave me yet: with you two I was never offended, and your Conversations are agreeable to my Nature, for you are Mild, Loving and Courteous, Religious, and full of wise Counsel, even such as my self was when I was first a Recluse: if you have a few green Leaves, or a little Grass, you are as well content, as with all the Bread and Fish in the World, and you are Temperate and Modest: And thus with a world of such like flattering Words he inticed these two, that they were content to go along with him.

By the Fox's Hypocrisie, is seen the dissimulation of worldly Men: and how to effect their mischief to the full height, they ever put on a most false cloak of Religion. By the general attendance of all the Beasts on the Fox is shewed, the Flattery and Passiveness of many People that never look how good a Man is, but how great, and that favour and countenance is ever enough to command all their services.

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CHAP. XV.

How *Kayward* the Hare was slain by *Reynard* the Fox,
and sent by the Ram to the King.

THus marched these three together; and when *Reynard* was come to the Gates of his own House he said to *Bellin*, Cousin I will intreat you to stay here without, a little, whilst I and *Kayward* go in: for I would have him a witness of some private passages betwixt me and my Wife. *Bellin* was well content, and so the Fox and the Hare went into *Malepardus*, where they found *Dame Ermelin* lying on the ground, with her Younglings about her, who had sorrowed exceedingly for the loss and danger of her Husband: but when she saw his return, her joy was ten times doubled. But beholding his Gale, his Staff, and his Shoes, she grew in o a great admiration, and said, Dear Husband, how have you fared? to whom he delivered, from point to point, all that had passed with him at the Kings Court, as well his danger as release, and that now he was to go a pilgrimage, having left *Bruin* and *Hegrim* to pledge for him till his return: as for *Kayward*, he said, the King had bestowed him upon them to do with him what they pleased, affirming that *Kayward* was the first that had complained of him, for which questionless he vowed to be sharply revenged. When *Kayward* heard these words, he was much appaled and would fain have fled away, but he could not, for the Fox had got between him and the Gate, who presently seized the Hare by the neck: at which the Hare cried unto *Bellin* for help, but could not be heard, for the Fox in a trice had torn out his Throat: which done, he, his wife and young ones feasted therewith merrily, eating the Flesh, and drinking the Blood to the Kings Health. But *Ermelin* growing suspicious, said, I fear, *Reynard* you mock me, as you love me tell me how you spead at the Court. Then he told her how extreamly he had flattered the King and Queen, and abused them with a fained promise of Treasure, that was not, insomuch, that he knew when it should come to be revealed,

of Reynard the FOX.

bealed, the King would seek all the means he could to destroy him. And therefore Wife, said he, there is no remedy but we must steal from hence, into some other Forest where we

The Moral.
By the killing of the Hare is shewed, that whereas Men out of the lightness and easiness of their belief, do give credit to the enticements of their Adversaries, new reconciled Friends, that evermore some enevitable mischief doth still follow such folly and improvidence. Also how easily a malicious Man can find cause of quarel with such as are too weak for them, or as eye-fores, stand between them and the end of their purposes; or are able to reveal and hinder their projects. By the Rams carrying the Hares head to the Lyon, and taking upon him to indite the Letters, which he saw not, is discovered, that such vain glorious pick-



may live in better safety, and in a place more fruitful, where we shall have all the delicatest Meats that can be wish'd for, clear

The Pleasant History

parfes of o-
thers qualities,
do ever carry
their own
shames and
disreputations,
and when they
look for moſt
Honour or Re-
nown, they
reap nothing
but Miſery,
Scorn, and Dif-
grace.

clear Springs, freſh Rivers, cool Shades, and wholeſome Air; here I know is no abiding: and now I have gotent my Thumb out of the Kings Mouth, I will no more come within the danger of his Talons. Yet (ſaid Ermelin) I have no fancy to go from hence to a place where I am utterly unacquainted: here we poſſeſs all that we deſire, and you are a Lord over all that lyes about you, and it is but an indiſcreet hazard to change a certain Good for a hoped Contentment: beſides we are here ſafe enough: and ſhould the King beſiege us never ſo ſtraightly, yet have we ſo many paſſages and by-holes, that he can neither cut from us relief or liberty. What reaſon have we then to ſtie beyond Seas? but you have ſworn it, that is my vexation. Nay, Dame (ſaid the Fox) grive not at that: the more ſworn, the leſs ſworn: Beſides I have heard ſome ſay, that a forced Muth is no Muth; nor do I make account that this Pilgrimage will avail me a ruſh. And therefore I am reſolved, and will not ſtart from hence, but follow the counſel: If the King do hunt after me, I will guard my ſelf as well as I am able, and againſt his Power apply my Policy, ſo that being forced to open my Sack, let him not blame me if he catch hurt by his own fury.

All this while ſtood Bellin the Ram at the Gate, and grew exceeding angry both againſt the Fox and the Hare, that they made him wait ſo long: and therefore called out aloud for Reynard to come away: which when Reynard heard, he went forth, and ſaid ſoftly to the Ram, Good Bellin be not offended, Kayward is in earneſt Conference with his deareſt Aunt, and intreated me to ſay unto you, that if you would be pleaſed to walk beſore, he would ſpedily overtake you, for he is light of foot and ſpeedier than you: nor will his Aunt part with him thus ſuddenly, for ſhe and her Children are much perplexed at my departure. I but (quoth Bellin) methought I heard Kayward cry for help. How, cry for help! can you imagine he ſhall receive hurt in my Houſe? far be ſuch a thought from you: but I will tell you the reaſon, as ſoon as we were come into my Houſe, and that Ermelin my Wife underſtood of my Pilgrimage, preſently ſhe fell down in a ſwond, which when Kayward ſaw,

of Reynard the FOX.

saw, he cried aloud, O Bellin come and help my Aunt, she dies, she dies: Then said the Ram, in sadness I mistook the cry, and thought the Hare had been in danger. It was your too much care of him, said the Fox; but before he should have any injury in my House, I would leave to respect either Wife or Childzen. But letting this Discourse pass, You remember Bellin that yesterday the King and his Council commanded me, that before I departed from the Land, I should send him two Letters, which I have made ready. Will intreat you, my dearest Cousin, to bear them to his Majesty. The Ram answered, I would willingly do you service, if there be nothing but honourable matter contained in your Letters: but I am unprovided of any thing to carry them in. The Fox said, That is provided for you already, for you shall have my Gale, which you may conveniently hang about your neck: I know they will be thankfully received of his Majesty, for they contain matter of great importance. Then Bellin promised to carry them: So the Fox returned into the House, and took the Gale, and put therein the Head of Kayward, and brought it to the Ram, and gave him a great charge not to look therein, till it was presented to the King, as he did expect the Kings favour: And that he might farther indear himself with his Majesty, he made the Ram take upon him the Admitting of the Letters, which will be so pleasing to the King, that questionless he will pour upon you many Favours.

The Ram was exceeding glad of his advice, and thanked the Fox, saying, That the favours he did him should not die unrequited: and I know it will be much to main Honour, when the King shall think I am able to Admit with so great perfection: For I know there be many in these days as ignorant as my self, that are risen to high Promotion only by taking upon them the worth of other Mens Labours. Yet I pray you, Reynard, farther advise me, is it meet that I take Kaynard the Hare along with me? O by no means (said the Fox) let him come after you, for I know his Aunt will not yet part with him. Besides, I have other secret things to impart to him, which may not

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be revealed. This said, Bellin took leave of the Fox, and went toward the Court, in which journey he made such speed, that he came thither before noon, where he found the King in his Palace, sitting amongst the Nobility.

The

of Reynard the FOX.

The King wondred when he saw the Ram come in with the Male which was made of the Bears skin, and said, Whence comest thou Bellin? and where is the Fox, that you have that about you? Bellin answered, My dear Lord, I attended the Noble Fox to his House, where after some repose, he desired me to bear certain Letters to your Majesty of infinite great importance, to which I easily consented. Whereupon he delivered me the Letters inclosed in this Male, which Letters my self had formerly Audited, and I doubt not but are such as will gibe your Highness both Contentment and Satisfaction. Presently he commanded the Letters to be delivered to Bocart his Secretary, who was an excellent Linguist, and understood all Languages, that he might read them publickly: So he and Tibert the Cat took the Male from Bellin's neck, and opening the same, instead of Letters they drew out the Head of Kayward the Hare, at which being amazed they said, Alas! what Letters call you these? believe it, my dread Lord, here is nothing but the Head of poor murdered Kayward. Which the King seeing, he said, Alas! how unfortunate was I to believe the traitorous Fox? And with that being oppressed with anger, grief, and shame, he held down his head for a good space, and so did the Queen also: But in the end shaking of his curled locks, he groined out such a dreadful noise, that all the Beasts of the Forrest did tremble to hear. Then spake Sir Hiraple the Libbard, who was the Kings nearest Kinsman, and said, Why is your Majesty thus vexed in Heart? this sorrow might serve for the Queens Funeral. I do beseech you assuage your anguish: Are you not King and Master of this Country? and are not all things subject to your power? The King replied, Confine, this is mischief beyond endurance, I am betrayed by a base Villian and Traitor, and have been made to wrong and abuse my best Friends and Subjects, even those of my Blood, and nearest Counsel; I mean the stout Brum, and valiant Hegrim, whose wrongs speak loud to my dishonour; yet in my self I found all unwillingness thereto, only my Ducens pety, working upon the easiness of my belief, hath made me guilty of that which will evermore grieve me. Why (said the Libbard) what of all this? you are above all your Injuries, and with one

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e found

The



one smile can salbe the greatest wound that can be made in Honour; you have potrer to recompence; and what Reputation is it, that Reward will not salwder? As for the Bear that lost his Skin, the Wolf and his Wife Dame Arfewind, that lost their Shooes, you may in recompence (since Bellin hath confest himself a party in this foul Murther) bestow him and his substance upon the Parties grieved: As for Keynard, we will go and besiege his Castle, and habing arrested his person, hang him up by the Law of Arms without further Trial.

C H A P. XVI.

How *Bellin* the Ram, and his Lineage, were given to the Bear and the Wolf.

TO this motion of the Libard the King consented: so that Firapel forthwith went to the Prison where the Bear and the Wolf were, and said, My Lords, I bring a free and general

of Reynard the FOX.

general Pardons from the King, and his Robe, and a Recognition of your Injuries: which to recompence in some large



E.B

manner out of his Princely bounty, he is pleased to bestow upon you both Bellin the Kan, and his whole Generation, with whatsoever they possess, and is now confisate to his Majesty,

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Majesty, to hold from henceforth, to you and yours, till Dooms-day, with full Commission to slay, kill, and devour them wheresoeber you find them, be it in Woods, Fields or Mountains. Also the King granteth unto you full power to hunt, kill or wound Reynard the Fox wheresoeber you find him, or any of his Lineage or Generation: And of this great Priviledge, you shall receive Letters Patents at your pleasure, with only a reservation of your safety and homage to be due to his Majesty, which I advise you to accept, for it will redound much to your Honours. Thus was the peace made between the King and these Nobles, by the Lybard; and Bellin the Ram was forthwith slain by them: and all these Priviledges both the Wolf hold to this Hour, nor could ever any reconciliation be made between them and the Rams kindred. When this Peace was thus finished, the King for joy thereof proclaimed a Feast to be held for twelve days after, which was done with all Solemnity.

To this Feast came all manner of Wild Beasts, for it was universally known throughout the whole Kingdom; nor was there wanting any Delight or Pleasure that could be imagined, as Musick, Dancing, Masking, and all Princely Recreations. As for several Years, they were in that abundance, that the Court seemed a Store-house which could not be emptied. Also to this Feast resorted abundance of Feathered Fowl, and all other Creatures that held Peace with His Majesty, and no one missing but the Fox only.

Now after this Feast had thus continued in all Pomp the space of eight days, about high noon came Lapril the Coney before the King and Queen as they sat at Dinner, and with a ceavy and lamentable voice said, My gracious and great Lord have pity upon my misery, and attend my complaint, which is of great Violence, Force and Murther which Reynard the Fox would yesterday have committed against me as I passed by the Castle of Malepardus, where standing without his Gates, attired like a Pilgrim, I supposing to pass peaceably by him toward my Nest, he cross my way, saying his Beads so devoutly, that I salu-
red

of Reynard the FOX.

saluted him: but he returning no answer, stretch forth his right foot, and gave me such a blow on the Neck between the

The Moral.

By the giving of Bellin unto his Enemies, is shewed, that when simple Men give themselves to pride and vain glory, they are overtaken by their Enemies, & made slaves to shame and destruction. By the complaint of the Coney, is shewed, that when the weak will believe the fair shews of the strong, and cruel, and so commit their safeties to their enemies mercies, they seldom escape with life, or if they do by some hidden providence, yet it is not without ever some main, either to their Bodies or Reputations. The complaint of the Rock shews, that when the evil Man sleepeth, or seemeth to have least

power or intent of wick-



Head and Shoulders, that I imagined my Head had been stricken from my Body: but yet so much memory was left me, that I leapt from his Claws, though most grievously hurt and wounded

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ness, that then
his thoughts
are most busi-
ed and labori-
ous to destroy
the Innocent ;
and the mis-
chief is more
violent, than
when he lyeth
most apparent
and publish-
eth himself an
open enemy ;
wherefore the
simple and in-
nocent ought
at such times
to be most
fearful and to
keep farthest
out of his
danger.

wounded. At this he grieved extremely, because I escaped, only of one of my Ears he utterly deprived me ; which I beseech your Majesty in your Royal Nature to pity, and that this bloody Murderer may not live thus to afflict your poor Subjects. Now whilst the Coney was thus speaking to the King, there came flying into the Court, Corbant the Rook, who coming before the King, said, Great King, I beseech you vouchsafe to here me, and pity the complaint I shall utter : So it is, that I went this Morning with Sharpbeak my Wife, to recreate our selves one the Heath, and there we found Reynard the Fox on the ground like a dead Carcass, his Eyes staring, his Tongue lolling out of his Mouth like a dead Hound, so that we wondering at this strange plight, began to feel and touch his Body, but found no life therein at all : Then went my Wife (poor careful Soul) and laid her Head to his Mouth to see if he drew any Breath : which she had no sooner done, but the foul Murderer awaiting his time, snatcht her Head into his Mouth, and bit it quite off. At that I screamed out, and cried, Who is me, what misfortunes are these ? But presently the Murderer starts up, and reached at me with such a bloody intent, that with much trembling and anguish, I was fain to flie up into a Tree, where I saw him devour up my Wife in such terrible manner, that the very thought is death to me in the reparing.

The Massacre finished the Murderer departed, and I went to the place, and gathered the Feathers of my lost Wife, which here I humbly present before your Majesty, beseeching you to do me justice ; and in such manner to revenge mine injury, that the World may speak fame of your great Excellence ; for thus to suffer your Laws, Protections, and safe Conducts to be violated and broken, will be such disreputation and scandal to your Crown and Dignity, that your very Neighbours and Colleagues will note and point at your remissness : besides the sufferance of the Evil will make you guilty of the Trespass which ariseth from such sufferance : But to your great Considerations I leave it, since I know your Majesties own goodness will make you careful of your Honour and Royalty.

of Reynard the FOX.

C H A P. XVII.

How the King was angry at these Complaints, took counsel for revenge; and how *Reynard* was forewarned by *Grimbard* the Brock.

THe Royal King was much moved with anger, when he heard these complaints both of the Coney and the Rook, so that his Eyes darted out fire amongst the beams of Majesty, his Countenance was dreadful and cruel to look on, and the whole Court trembled to behold him. In the end, he said, By my Crown, and the Truth I evermore reverence and owe unto the Queen my Wife, I will so revenge these outrages committed against my Crown and Dignity, that Goodness shall adore me, and the Wicked shall die with the remembrance: his Falshood and Flattery shall no more get belief in me.

As this his Journey to Rome and to the Holy-land? Are these the fruits of his Male, his Staff, and other Ornaments becoming a devout Pilgrim? Well, he shall find the reward of his Treasons: but it was not my belief, but the perswasion of my Queen; nor am I the first that hath been deceived by that soft gender, since many great Spirits have fallen through their inticements. And this said, he commanded all that were about him, both Noble, Worthie, and every discreet Spirit, to assist him with their Counsel, and to lay him down such sure ground for his revenge, that his Honour and Royalty might be anew rebbed, and every Offender made to know and feel the heavy price for their most unjust actions.

Hegrim the Wolf, and Bruin the Bear, hearing the Kings Words, were wonderfully well apaid, and doubted not but now to gain their full revenge against *Reynard*; yet still they kept silence and spake not a word. Insomuch that the King being much moved with their dumbness, and noting that none durst freely deliver their Opinions: He began to bend his Forehead: But the Queen after solemn reverence said to the King, Mounseur, Pour Cieu croyes mei toutes choses

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chofes qu'on vous, & ne jurez point legrement. Sir, It is not the part of any excellent Wisdom, to believe or protest in any thing, till the matter be made most apparent and pregnant to his knowledge: neither should both his Ears be engaged to any complaint, but one ever reserved to entertain the defence of any accused: For many times the Accuser exceedeth the accused in injury: And therefore Audire alteram Partem, to hear the other Party, is the act of perfect Justice:

of Reynard the FOX.

Justice: For my own part, howsoever I have erred, yet I have strong ground for my persuasion; or whether Reynard be good or bad, yet it stands with your Excellency not to proceed against him, but by the true form of our Laws: for he hath no power to escape you, but must obey whatsoever your Society can impose upon him. When the Queen had thus spoken, Firapel the Libard, to second her intreaty, said, My Lord, the Queen hath spoken graciously, and I see not wherein your Majesty can stray from her judgment: Therefore let him take the due tryal of your Laws, and being found guilty of the Trespasses whereof he is accused, let him be summoned: and if he appear not before your Feast he ended to cleare himself, or submit to your mercy, then may your Highness proceed against him, as it shall seem best to your pleasure.

The Moral.
The anger of the Lion at the Fox's trespasses, shews the disposition of a good Prince, which is ever moved and offended, when his good Subjects are injured; and the persuasion of the Queen and the Libard, shews the true temperance which every Prince should use when he administheth Justice. The moderate, yet biting words of the Wolf, shews the cunning malice of a subtil foe, who before such as are of his contrary faction, will conceal the violence of his malice, that so he may gain a more quiet attention, and then mixing his calm words with bitter promises & doubtful injures, doth the utmost he can to poison the reputation

To this Speech Isegrim the Wolf replied, Sir Firapel, for my own part, I think not any of this Assembly will dissent from your Counsel, so it may stand with the pleasure of my Lord the King: yet this I dare maintain, that howsoever Reynard shall clear himself of these and a thousand such like Trespasses which shall be brought against him; yet I have that lodged in my Bosom, which shall approve he hath forfeited his Life: but at this time his absence shall make me silent, only touching the Treasure of which he hath informed his Majesty to be at Crekenpit in Husterloe, there never came a falser information from the Mouth of any Creature, for it was a lye made out of malice to wrong me and the Bear, and get himself liberty to rob and spoil all that passed by his House, as now he doth: but notwithstanding I held it meet that all things be done as shall seem good to his Majesty, or you, Sir Firapel: Yet this believe, that if he had meant to have appeared, he had been here long since; for he had summons given him by the Kings Messenger.

To this the King answered, I will have no other course of summoning him, but command all that owe me Allegiance, or respect my Honour, that forthwith they make themselves ready for the War: and at the end of six Days appear before me with their Bows, Gunns, Bumbards, Bikes and Halberts;

, It is protest
nt and
ears be
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ire alte-
perfect
Justice:

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of him he
hateth. The
Brocks going
to the Fox,
sheweth the
office of a true
Friend, which
both giveth
warning and
advice to them
they love,
when they see
them run into
evil courses.
The Foxes
carelessness
shews the true
nature of a
desperate man
that when he
hath plunged
himself into
the depth of
evil, hath no-
thing but an
audacious
countenance
and an impu-
dent shew, to
make him
seem innocent
yet evermore
his Heart is
nipt with the
stinging of his
Conscience, as
oft as he is al-
one, which is
the torment
of every Of-
fender.

Halberts; some on Horse-back, some on Foot, for I will
besiege Malepardus instantly, and destroy Reynard and his
Generation from the Earth for ever: this if any dislike, let
him turn his back, that I may know him for mine Enemy.
And they all cried with one voice, We are ready to attend
your Majesty.

When Grimbard the Bock heard this Determination, he
grew exceeding sorry (though his sorrow was desperate,
and stealing from the rest of the Company, he ran with all
speed possible to Malepardus, neither sparing Bush nor Brier,
Hale or Hail: and as he went, he said to himself, Alas my
dear Uncle Reynard! into what hazards art thou drawn,
having but one step betwixt thee and thy Death, or at the
best thy everlasting Banishment! Well may I grieve for
thee, since thou art the Top and Honour of my House, and
Wise and Politick, and a Friend to thy Friends where
they stand in need of thy Counsel; for with thy sweet lan-
guage thou canst inchant all Creatures; but all is boot-
less.

With such manner of Lamentations as these, came
Grimbard unto Malepardus, and found his Uncle Reynard
standing at the Castle Gates, who had newly gotten three
young Pigeons as they came creeping out of their Nest, to
try how they could learn to fly. But now beholding his
Nephew Grimbard, he staid and said, Welcome my best be-
loved Nephew, the only he I esteem above all my kindred.
Surely you have run exceeding fast, for you sweat wonder-
fully. What news Man? how runs the squares at the Court?
D. said Grimbard, exceeding ill with you; for you have for-
feited both your Life, Honour and Estate. The King is up
in Arms against you with Horse-men and Foot men, and
Souldiers innumerable: Besides, Hegrim and Bruin are
now in more favour with his Majesty, than I am with you;
therefore it is high time you have great care of your self, for
their envy hath rought you to the quick, they have informed
against you, that you are a Thief and a Murderer! and to
second their informations, Laprel the Coney, and Corbanc
the Bock have made banious complaints against you, so that
from shameful death, I see no escape or freedom.

of Reynard the FOX.



EB

Lush (said the Fox) my dear Nephew, if this be the
 best, let no sorrow affright you: but let us be cheerful and
 pleasant together, for though the King and all the Court
 should swear my death, yet will I be exalted above them
 all;

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all; Well may they prate and jangle, and tire themselves with their Counsels, but without the help of my Wit and Policy, neither can the Court or Common-Wealth have any long continuance. Come then my best Nephew, let us enter into my Castle, and Feast; I have a pair of fat Pigeons for you, which are meat of pure and light digestion; I love not any thing better, they are young and tender, and may be almost swallowed whole, for their Bones are little other than Blood; yet come, I say, my Wife Ermelin will receive you kindly, but by all means report not to her of any dangers, for she is of a soft and melting Temper, and it might strike her into suddain Sicknes; for Women are apt to entertain Grief. When we have feasted I will then to Morrow early in the Morning go with you to the Court, and if I can but attain speech with the King, I shall gail some deep enough; only this I desire (dear Nephew) at your Hands, that you will stand to me, as one Friend and Kinsman ought to do one by another. Doubt me not (said Grimbard) for both my Life and Goods shall be at your service. I thank you Nephew (said the Fox) and you shall not find me ingrateful. Sir (said the Bock) be bold of this, That you shall come and make your answer before the Lords freely, for none shall dare to Arrest or hold you, for that favour the Queen and the Libard hath purchast from the King. I am glad of that (said the Fox) nor care I then a hair for their worst malice. And this said, they went to Malepardus: and found Ermelin sitting amongst her Poulings, who presently arose, and received the Bock with all Reberence, and he on the other part saluted her and her Childzen with all Courtesie. Presently the two Pigeons were made ready, and they supped together, each taking their part, though none had so much as they desired: Then said the Fox, Nephew, how like you my Childzen Rossel and Reynardine? I hope they will do honour to our Family, they are towardly, I assure you; for the one lately caught a Chicken, and the other hath killed a Bullet: they are all good Duckers, and can both deceive the Lapwing and the Mallard: I tell you true, I dare already

adventur

of Reynard the FOX.

adventure them far, only I mean first to instruct them how to escape the Ezins, and to prevent both the Huntsman and his Hounds; they are of the right Hair, Nephew, and like me both in Countenance and Quality, they play grinning, intangle soothing, and kill smiling. This is the true nature of the Fox, and in this they are perfect, which is a great pride unto me.

C H A P. XVIII.

How the Fox repenting his Sins, doth make his Confession, and is Absolved by the Brock.

UPONCE, said the Brock, you may be proud that you have such toward Children; and rejoyce because they are of my Blood. I thank you Nephew, (said the Fox) but I know your Journey hath made you weary, therefore you shall go to your rest: to which the Brock consented; so they laid them down upon Straw Litter, and all slept soundly; but the Fox, whose Heart was heavy with sorrow, lay studying how he might best excuse himself before the King. But as soon as the Morning began to rise from the top of the Mountains, he arose, and went with Grimbard towards the Court; yet before he went he took leave of his Wife and Childzen; and said, Thank not mine absence long (dear Wife and Childzen) for I must go to the Court with my Cousin Grimbard, and though my stay be more than ordinary, yet take no affright thereat, and what tidings soever you hear, yet consider all things for the best; and be careful of your selves, and keep my Castle close, and well guarded; as for my self, doubt not but I will defeat all mine Enemies. Alas Reynard (said his Wife) what moves you to take this sudden Journey? the last time you were at the Court, you know what dangers you escaped; and you hoped never to see it again. Will you now run a second hazard? Dame (said the Fox) the occurrents of the World are divers and uncertain; and we are subject to the strokes of fortune: but rest you content, there is necessity
I that

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that I go, and I hope my stay shall not be aboue fife days at the uttermost ; and so imbracing his Wife and Children, he took leave and departed ; and as they journeyed over the Heath, Reynard said to the Brock, since I was last shryven, I have committed many Sins, therefore I beseech you let me make before you my Confession, that I may passe with lets trouble through my worst dangers.



Then

be fir
hood,
Bear

of Reynard the FOX.

Then he proceeded, and said, It is true, Nephew, that I made the Bear receive a great wound for the Male which I did cut off his Skin; and I caused the Wolf and his Wife to



be stript of their Shooes: I appeald the King only with falshood, I fained a conspiracy against his Majesties life by the Bear and the Wolf, when there was never any such determination:

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The Moral.

The Fox's thriving himself to the Brock, shews the Art of all Dissemblers, which ever make devotion their Cloak. By the buying of the Fole of the Mare, is shewed, that when proud Men make instruments of wiser than themselves, & such as affect not their qualities, the service they do them is ever to bring them to mischief, &c. Also when Ambition or Covetousness blinds Men, & makes them trust on in their own skill & knowledge, that then they are ever suddenly overtaken with one mischief or another, and made a mock and scorn to their foes, and such as led them blindfold into the evil.

mination: also I reported of great Treasure to be hid in Husterleo, but it was as fabulous as the rest: I slew Kayward, and betrayed Bellin, I wounded the Coney, and killed Dame Sharpbeak the Rooks Wife. Lastly, I forgot at my last Thrift one great deceit which I committed, but I will reveal it, and thus it was;

As I went talking with the Wolf between Houthlust and Elverding, we beheld a goodly Bay Mare grazing with a Black Fole by her side, which was exceeding fat and wanton: the Wolf at that instant was almost dead for hunger, insomuch that he intreated me to go to the Mare, and know if she would sell her Fole: I went and demanded the question. The Mare said, she would willingly sell it for Money: I then asked the price; and she said, the price was written in her hinder-foot, which if I pleased I might come and read it at my pleasure; but I that well understood her politick anger, said, It is truth that I cannot read, neither do I desire to buy your Fole; only I am a Messenger from the Wolf, who hath a great desire to have it. Then (said the Mare) let him come himself, and I will give him satisfaction: Then went I to the Wolf, and told him what the Mare said; assuring him, that if he pleased he might have his belly full of the Fole, provided he could read, for the price was written in the Mares hinder-foot. Read (said the Wolf) ! what should aile me? I can, Cousin, read both Latin, French, English, and Dutch; I have studied in Oxford, and argued with many Doctors; I have heard many stately Plays, and sitten in the place of Judgment: I have taken degrees in both the Lawes; nor is there that writing which I cannot decipher: So desiring me to stay for him there, away he went to the Mare, and craved that he might see and read the price of the Fole: to which the Mare consented, and lifting up her hinder-foot which was newly shod with strong Iron, and seven sharp Nail-heads, as the Wolf looked thereon, she smote him so just upon the Fore-head, that she threw him over and over, and he lay in a dead swoond whilst a Man might have ridden a mile and better; which done, away trotted the Mare with her Colt.

and

of Reynard the FOX.

and left the poor Wolf bloody and wounded, insomuch that he howled like a Dog: then went I to him, and said, Sir Isegrim, Dear Nephew, how do you? have you eaten too much of the Colt? indeed you are unkind, that will give me no part with you. I went on your message honestly? methinks you have out-slept your Dinner: good Nephew tell me what was written under the Mares foot? was it in Prose or Rime? indeed I would fain know it: I think it was a Pick-song, for I heard you sing: nay, you shew your Scholarship in all the Arts.

Alas Reynard, (alas said said the Wolf) I pray you forbear to disdain me, for I am extreamly wounded, and mine anguish is so great that a Heart of Flint would pity me. The damned Mare on her long Leg hath an Iron Foot, and I took the Nails to have been Letters, on which I looked: she hit me so full on the Head, I think my Scull is cloben. Dear Uncle (said the Fox) is this truth which you tell me? believe it, you make me wonder; why, I took you for one of the greatest Clarks in this Kingdom: Well, I perceive the old Proverb is now made good in you, The greatest Clarks are not the wisest Men. Poor Men sometimes may out-strip them in Judgment; and the reason is, you great Scholars study so much, that you grow dull, in that you so much over-labour. And thus with these mocks and taunts, I brought the Wolf within a hairs breadth of Destruction. And now fair Nephew, I have unladen my Conscience, and delivered as many of my Sins as I can call to remembrance; wherefore I beseech you let me receive Absolution and Penance: and then come what chance shall at the Court, I am armed against all dangers. Then Grimbard said, your Trespasses are great and hainous; nevertheless, who is dead must abide dead. And therefore here I freely absolve you, upon assurance of your hearty Repentance: only the contempt you made in sending him Kaywards Head, and the abuse of so many falsehoods will lie heavy upon you. Why (said the Fox) he that will live in the World to see this, or hear that, and understand

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understand the third, must ever converse with Affliction. No Man can touch Honey, but he must lick his Fingers. I often feel touches of Repentance, but Reason and our Will are ever in continual combat; so that I oft stand still, as at my Wits end, and cry out against my Sins, feeling a detestation of them; but presently the World and her Vanities appear to me again: and when I find so many Stones and Raubs in my way, and the Tramples of the crafty Prelates, and rich Priests to inchant me, that I am forthwith taken again; the World fills me with Cobetousness, and the Flesh with Wantonness; so that losing my good resolutions, I am only for Hell and Wickedness. I hear their Singing, Piping, Laughing, Playing, and all kind of Mirth; and I see their Words and Actions so contrary, that nothing is more uncertain and various: From them I learnt my Lying, and from Lords, Courts my Flattery: For certainly Lords, Ladies, Priests and Clerks, use most Disimulation. It is now an offence to tell great Men truth: And he that cannot dissemble cannot live. I have oft heard Men speak truth, yet they have still grac'd it with falshood, for untruths many times happen into discourse unwillingly, and without knowledge; yet having a handsom Garment it ever goes for currant. Dear Nephew, it is now a fashion to Lye, Flatter, Sooth, Threaten, Pray and Curse, and to do any thing that may keep the weak in subjection; who do otherwise is held foolish: but he that cannot whimble Falshood in Truth's kerchief, hath neither Art nor Cunning: but he that can do it, and deliver Error without stammering, he may do Wonders: he may wear Scarlet, Gray or Purple: he shall gain both by the Laws Spiritual and Temporal, and write himself Conquerour in every designment. There be many that imagine they can do it neatly, but their cunning oft fails them: so that when they think to feed of the fat morsels, they slip quite besides their Trenchers. Others are blunt and foolish, and for want of method marr all their Discourses; but he that can gibe to his Lye a fit and an apt conclusion, can pronounce it without rattling, and make it as truth, fair and amiable: That is the Man, and worthy of admiration.

But

of Reynard the FOX.

But to speak the truth is no cunning, it never makes the De-
vil laugh: to lye well and with a grace to lift up *Mong a-*
bove right, to make Mountains and build Castles in the
Air, to make them juggle and look throow their fingers,
and all for hope of gam only: This, Nephew, is an Art
beyond expression; yet evermore at the end cometh Misery
and Affliction. I will not deny but sometimes Men may
jest or lye in small things, for he that will speak all truths,
shall sometimes speak out of season. To play Placebo, may
now and then be born with; for who so speaks always
truth, shall find many rubs in his way: Men may err for
need, and mend by course, since no Trespass but hath his
Percy, nor any Wisdom but at sometime dulleth. Then
(said the Bock) Uncle, you are so wise you cannot fail in
any purpose; and I am grown enamoured of you; your
Reasons so far surpass my Understanding, that there is no
need of your Thrift, for your self may both play the Best
and the Confessor: you know the World on such sort, that
it is impossible for any Man to halt before you.

With these and such manner of Discourses, they held on
their journey towards the Court: Yet the Foxes Heart
(for all his fair shew) was sad and heavy, yet his Counte-
nance bewraied it not; but he past without amazement
through all the press of the Court, even till he came to the
presence of the King, and the Bock marched close by his
side, saying, Uncle be not afraid, be of good cheer, it is
Courage of whom Fortune is ever enamoured. Then (said
the Fox) Nephew, you say true, and your counsel abails
me: and so on he went, casting many disdainful countenan-
ces on those he lik'd not; or as who would say, here I am:
what is that the proudest of you dare object against me? he
beheld there many of his kin which he knew loved him not:
as the Otter, the Bever, and divers others, which I will
name hereafter: and many he saw that loved him. As soon
as he was come in the view of the King, he fell down hum-
bly on his knee and spake as followeth.

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C H A P. XIX.

How *Reynard* the Fox excused himself before the King,
and of the Kings answer.

That Divine power from whom nothing can be hid, save
my Lord the King, and my Lady the Queen, and gibe
them grace to know who hath right, and who hath wrong: for



here

of Reynard the FOX.

there are many false shewes in the World, and the Countenance bewrayeth not the Heart, which I wish were openly revealed, and that every Creatures trespass stood writtē in his Forehead, albeit it cost me the uttermost of my substance, or that you (my Sovereign Lord) knew me as nearly as my self, and how I dispose my selfe early and late, labouring in your service: For which cause only malice makes all her complaints against me, striving the thrust me out of your Grace and Favour. Insomuch, that out of my anguish I must needs cry shame unto them which have so deadly belied me. Nevertheless, I know that you my Lord, and Sovereign Lady, are so excellent in your Judgments, that you will not be carried away with Falshoods: and therefore I humbly beseech your Majesties to take into your Wisdoms all things according to the right of your Laws: for it is Justice I look for, and desire that he which is guilty, may feel the weight of his punishment. For believe it, dear Lord, it shall be known before I depart from your Court, who I am, that I cannot flatter, but will shew my Face with an unblemished Forehead.

All they that were in the presence stood amazed, and wondered when the Fox spake so stoutly. But the King with a stately countenance said, Reynard, I know you are expert in fallacies; but Words are now too weak to relieve you; I believe this day will be the last of your Glory and Disgrace: for me, I will not chide you much, because I intend you shall live but a short time: the love you do bear to me, you have shewed to the Coney and the Wook, and your requital shall be a short life on Earth. The ancient saying is, A Pot may pass long to the Water, but in the end comes broken home. And your evils have so long succeeded, that they will now pay you the hazard. At these Words Reynard was stricken into a great fear, and wished himself far away, yet he bethought himself that now he must bear whatsoever, what fortune soever came: Whereupon he said (my Sovereign Lord the King) it is but Justice that you hear me answer my Accusations; for were my Faults more hainious than Envy can make them, yet Equity gives the accused leave

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ever to answer. I have with my Counsels done you service in former time, and may no less still: I have never started from your Majesty, but walking by your side, when others have gone from your presence: if then my Enemies with their slanders shall prevail against me, blame me not to complain. Time hath been, it was otherwise, and time may bring it to the old course; for the actions of good Servants ought not to be forgotten. I see here divers of my Widdens and Friends, which now make no value of me, whom I can prove go about to deprive you of the best Servant you possess. Can your Majesty imagine, if I had been guilty in the least imagined Crime, that I would thus voluntarily have made my appearance, even in the throng of mine Enemies? It had been too much indiscretion; nor would the liberty I had, been so easily subjected. But Heaven be thanked I know mine Innocency, and dare affront my worst Enemy. Yet when my kinsman Grimbold first brought me the tidings, I must confess I was half distracted with anger; and had I not been in the censure of the Church, I had appeared ere they had left complaining; but that detained me. And I wandered with sorrow upon the Heath, till I met with my Uncle Martin the Ape, who far exceeded any Priest in Pastoral business, for he hath been Attorney to the Bishop of Cambreck any time this nine years: and seeing me in this great agony of Heart, he said, Dear Cousin, why are you thus heavy in Spirit? and why is your Countenance dejected? Grief is easie to carry when the burden is divided amongst Friends: For the nature of a true Friend is to behold and relieve that which anguish will not suffer the oppressed to see or suffer. Then I answered him, You say true, Dear Uncle, and the like is my fortune; for sorrow is without cause laid upon me; and of that I am not guilty, I am accused by those I ranked with my best Friends; as namely, the Coney who came yesterday to my House as I was saying Mattins, saying he was travelling towards the Court, but was at that time both hungry and weary, and therefore requested of me some Meat: I willingly consented, took him in, and gave him a couple of Munchets and sweet Butter: for it was on Wednesday, on which day I never eat flesh.

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blee

of Renard the FOX.

Besides it was then a Fast, by reason the Feast of Whitson-
ride was neer. At which we must have cleansed and prepared
Hearts, Et vos estote Parati. Now when he had almost re-
fresh'd himself, my youngest Son Rossel came in, and offer-
ed to take away what he had left. (for you know the the na-

The Moral:
The boldness
of the Foxes
appearance &
speech, shews
their impudence
of a desperate
offender, that
having no-
thing but his
own boldness
to bolster out
his cause, still
cries for Ju-
stice, and cares
not so much
to excuse him-
self, as to ex-
cuse others, &
by digressions
and extra-
gant speech to
bring all those
into disgrace
which are able
to testifie any
thing against
him. By the
tale of the
Apes going
for him to
Rome, and his
threatning the
King, is shew-
ed, the igno-
rance and for-
tish blindness
of the old
times; which
would thrall
Kings under
the Pope's
Curse, and ma-
keth them sub-
ject to his
Commands,
though they
were never so
Heathenish, &



ture of Children is ever eating and craving.) But presently
the Coney smote Rossel on the the Mouth, that his Teeth
bled, and the poor Fool fell down in a swoond, which when

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Diabolical. By his excusing himself of the crimes against the Coney and the Rook, is shewed that whosoever is resolved to do an ill act, will never make Conscience to tell a loud lye, nor is he ever unprovided thereof, because they are the garment which he ever cloaths his knavery with.

as Reynardine (my eldest Son) beheld, he forthwith leapt to the Coney, and caught him by the Head, and questionless had slain him, had I not come to the rescue. Which done, I went and gave my Son correction for his fault: But presently Laprel the Coney posts to my Lord the King, and informs, that I my self sought means to murder him. Thus I am accused without cause, and brought in danger, that in truth have best cause to accuse others. But not long after came Corbant the Rook flying to my House with a sad noise, and I demanding what he ailed? he answered, Alas, my Wife is dead. I craved the cause, he said, A dead Hare lying on the Hearth full of Worms and Mirmin, of which she had eaten so much, that the Worms had gnawed her Throat insunder; and without speaking to me any more Words, away he flew, leaving me much amazed, and now reports that I slew his Wife, which how could I possible by any means do, considering she flieth in the Air, and I walk a foot on the Ground? Thus dear Uncle you may see how I

am

of Reynard the F O X.

am flandzed, but it may be it is for my old Sins, and therefore I bear it with more patience. Then said the Ape to me, Nephew, you shall go to the Court and disprove their falsehoods. Alas, Uncle (quoth I) it cannot be, for the Arch-deacon hath put me in the Popes Curse, because I gave counsel to the Wolf to forsake his holy Orders, when he complained to me of his unableness to endure that strict life, and much fasting; of which at I now much repent me, since he repayed my love with nothing but hatred and malice, and with all the flanders he can invent, stirring his Majesty daily against me. These things (dear Uncle) bring me to my Wits end; for of necessity I must go to Rome for Absolution; and in mine absence, what injury may happen to my Wife and Children through the malice of these bloody Wretches any one may guess: Whereas on the other part, were I but free of the Popes Curse, then I could go to the Court, and plead my own Cause, and turn their malice into their own Bosoms.

Then said the Ape, Cousin, cast off your sorrow, for I know the way of Rome well, and am experienced in these businesses: for I am called the Bishops Clark, therefore I will go thither, and enter a Plea against the Arch-deacon, and in spite of him will bring you from the Pope a well seal'd Absolution.

But Man, I have many great Friends there, as my Uncle Simon, and others, Pen-Stout, Wait-catch, and the like, all which will stand unto me: besides, I will not go unfurnished of Money, for I know Baratores are best heard with Gifts, and the Law hath no Feet to walk on but Money: A true Friend is tried in necessity, and you shall finde me without dissembling; therefore cast off your grief, and go to the Court as soon as you can, for I will presently to Rome, and in the mean time here I quit you of all your Sins and Offences, and only put them upon my self: when you came to the Court, you shall find there Dame Rukenaw my Wife, her to Sisters and my three Children, with divers others of our Family, I pray you salute them from me, and shew them mine occasions: my Wife is exceeding Wise, and

By the Apes friends in Rome Simon or Sima-vi, Pen-Tout, or Takeill, and Wait-Scatch, or Do-mischief, is shewed the wickedness of these days in Rome, and how by much means a man might purchase any thing he went about. By his insinuating with the Apes Wife, who was then a great favorite about the Queen, is shewed the art of a subtile Head, that to gain himself a strong party, will not spare any false invention; for against those great ones, dare not the inferiour open their lips: By the flight of the Coney and the Rook, is shewed how soon the weak are terrified and daunted with the threatenings of the strong and mighty; that

the

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is better to sit down with wrong, than to contend with one that holdeth too strong a party: And also how by such advantage the offender takes heart, & thereon grounds the strength of his greater innocence. By the Lions last accusations, & the Foxes directions, is shewed, that when Truth and Authority stand up against the wicked, that then studying with his own Conscience, he is able to abide no longer, but with silence and down-cast look, he shews plainly the grief which lies within him.

He shall find that her distressed Friends shall not shrink when I can help them. I know she is faithful and, as behoves her, will never leave her Friend in danger. At the uttermost, if your oppression be more than you can have, send presently to me to Rome, and not an Enemy that you bear, be it King or Queen, or Subject, even from the highest to the lowest, but I will presently put them in the Popes Curse, and send back such an Interdiction, that no Holy or Sacred Duty shall be performed till you have Right and Justice restored you.

This assure your self, I can easily perform, for his Holiness is very old, and little regarded; only now Cardinal Pare-Gold beareth all the sway in the Country, as being young and rich in many Friends: Besides he hath a Concubine, of whom he is so far enamoured, that he denies nothing she demandeth. His Lady is my Niece, and will do whatsoever I request her: therefore Cousin, go boldly to the King, and charge him to do you Justice, which I know he will, since he understands the Laws are made for the use of all Men.

This (my Sovereign Lord the King) when I heard him speak, I smil'd, and with great joy came hither to relate unto you the truth: Therefore if you, or any Creature within this Court, can charge me with any Trespass whatsoever, and prove it by Testimony, as the Law requireth, or else otherwise he will appose himself against me, Person to Person; grant me but a day, and equal lists, and in combat I will maintain my innocency against him, provided he be equal to me in Birth and Degree: this Law hath ever hitherto stood constant, and I hope neither in me, for me, or by me, it shall now be broken.

When all the Assembly of Beasts heard this, they were dumb and amazed to behold his stoutness. As for the Coney and the Hock, they were so scared, they durst not speak, but privately stole away out of the Court, and being far on the Plain, they said, This devilish Murderer hath such Art in his falshood, that no truth can look with better countenance,

of Reynard the FOX.



countenance, which only our selves know, but have no other witness; therefore it is better we depart, than try combat with him, which is so much too strong for us, and so away they went.

Iegrim the Wolf, and Bruin the Bear, were very sad when they saw these two forsake the Court: whereupon the King said, If any will appeach the Fox, let him come forth, and he shall be heard: Yesterday we were laden with complaints, where are they to Day? Here is the Fox ready to answer.

Then said the Fox, My Soberaign Lord, absence makes impudent Accusers bold, when presence daunts them, as your Highness may see both by the Coney and the Rook! What it is to trust the malice of these Cowards! and how soon they may confound good Men, but for me, it matters not: nevertheless had they, (at your Majesties commandment) but ask'd me forgiveness, I had quickly cast all their offences behind me, for I will never shake hands with Charity;

The Pleasant History

rity; noz neber hate oz complain of mine Enemies: my re-
 venge I leabe to Heaven, and Justice to your Majesties.
 Then said the King, Reynard, you speak well, if the inward
 heart be like the outward shew; yet I fear your greif is not
 so much as you express it: It far surmounts it, said the
 Fox: No, quoth the King, for I must charge you with one
 foul Treason, which is, when I had pardoned all your great
 Transgressions, and you had promised me to go a Pilgri-
 mage to the Holy Land: when I had furnished you with
 Mule, with Staff, and all things fitting that holy Order,
 then in the greatest contempt you sent me back in the Mule
 by Bellin the Ram, the Head of Kayward the Hare, a thing
 so notoriously to my disgrace and dishonour, that no Treason
 can be fouller. This you have no colour to deny, for Bellin
 (our Chaplin) at his death revealed the whole process;
 and the same reward which he then gained, the same you
 shall receive; oz else right shall fail me.

At this Sentence Reynard grew so soze affraid, that he
 knew not what to say, but looked with a pitiful Countenance
 upon all his Kindred which stood round about him; his Co-
 lour went and came, and his Heart fainted, but none lent
 him either Hand oz Foot to help him: Then the King said,
 Thou dissembling and false Traitor, why art thou now so
 dumb? But the Fox being full of anguish, fetch a sight as
 if his Heart would have broke; so that every Beast pitied
 him, save only the Bear and the Wolf, which rejoiced to
 see his sorrow.

C H A P. XX.

How Dame *Rukenaw* answered for the F O X to the
 King, and of the Parable she told him.

Dame *Rukenaw* the she-Ape (being Aunt unto Reynard
 and a great Favourite of the Queens) was much grie-
 ved when she saw this distraction, and it was well for the Fox
 that she was in the presence: for she was exceeding wise, and
 durst boldly speak; and therefore rising up (after reverence
 done) she said, My Lord the King, you ought not to be posses-
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of Reynard the FOX.



with anger, when you sit in Judgment, for it becometh not
 Nobility to be void of reason : it is discretion which should
 only accompany you in that season : for mine own part, I
 think I know the Laws as well as some which wear furred
 Gowns, for I read many, and put some in use. It is
 well known, I had ever in the Pope's Palace a bed of straw,
 when other Beasts lay on the bare ground, and I was
 ever suffered to speak freely without interruption ; be-
 cause

The Pleasant History

The Moral.
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old Proverb,
*That a Friend
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pound in a
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cause I talk not beyond my experience. It is Seneca's opinion, that Princes are bound to do Justice to all men; nor may the Law waver or halt with any partiality. I do not think but if every man which standeth here, should call to an account all the actions of his life, he could not chuse but pity much the estate of my poore kinsman Reynard; and therefore wish every one to know himself, for none so sure but they may fall; and for him that never erred, he is so good he needeth no amendment. To do amiss and mend it by counsel, is humane and manly: but to trespass and still gallop forward in iniquity, is debillish and insufferable: the Holy Book saith, Be merciful and judge not, lest you be judged; and in another place, when the Pharisees brought a Woman taken in adultery, and would have stoned her to death, asked our Lord what he said thereto? he answered, Which of you all is without sin, let him cast the first stone: But they all departed and left her; In mine opinion, it is so here to day; for here be many that find straws in others eyes, but see not the beams in their own: he that falleth oft, and in the end arith and cometh to mercy, cannot be said to be damned: goodness never forsaketh her own servants. This counsel would some take to their hearts, the day would not appear so dark as it doth to my Cousin Reynard. It is well known that his Grandfather and Father ever bare greater reputation in this Court, then either Bruin or Isgrim, of their whole generation. Alas, when have their Counsels, or Wisdoms been worthy to have held comparison with those of my Cousin Reynards? why, the passages of the World are to them Prophecies, which they understand not; and the Court is turned topsie-turvy by his absence: the evil are now advanced, and the good suppressed; but how this can long endure, I see not; since the end of their labour is but the ruin of your Majesty.

To this speech the King made this answer; Dame, had the Fox done that offence to you, as he hath done to others, your excuse would couch in another nature; you cannot blame me to hate him, since it is only he which breaketh my Laws and

Cob

of Reynard the FOX.

Covenants : you have heard him accused of Theft, Murder and Treason, how can you then defend him? if you will needs make him your Saint, then set him upon the Altar, and do him Worship; but believe it, there is no one good thing in him: and however you imagine, yet search him, and you will find him rotten and deformed; there is neither kinsman nor friend (but your self) that will assist him, and therefore your violence draws my greater wonder. What companion hath he that ever thrived by his Society? or whom hath he smild on, that his tail hath not after dasht out the eye of?

of the Man and the Serpent, in which the sheweth the wisdom of the Fox, and the folly and disability of the Bear, the Wolf and the rest of the Fox's enemies.

To this the she-Ape replied, My Lord, I love him, and have ever born him a singular reverence; and I can well recount one noble and good action he did in your presence, for which you then thanked him, though now forgotten: yet the heaviest thing should ever weigh the most; and men should keep a measure in their affections, and not hate, nor love with violence; since constancy is the greatest ornament of a Princely nature. We should not praise the day till the evening come; nor is good counsel available, but to those which mean to pursue it.

I remember about some two years since, there came to this Court a Man and a Serpent to have Judgment in a doubtful controverſie. For the Serpent attempting to go through a hedge, was taken by the nick with a snare, so that there was no way to escape with life: a certain man passing by, the Serpent called and cried unto him, and desired his help, or he should perish presently. The Man taking pity of him said, If thou wilt faithfully promise me neither to do me hurt with thy tooth or tail, or other Mischance about thee, I will release thee. The Serpent presently swore he would not, neither that time, nor any time hereafter: So the Man unloosed him, and set him free, and they went forth and travelled together a long season.

At last the Serpent grew exceeding hungry, and rushing upon the Man, offered to kill him: but the Man started aside and said, What meanest thou to do? hast thou forgotten thine

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thine Dath? the Serpent replied, No, but I may justly kill thee, since I am compelled thereto by hunger which cancell-eth all obligations. Then the Man said, If it be so, give me leave to live till we may meet with the next passenger, which may judge the controverſie.

The Serpent agreed thereto; so they travelled till they met with Tifellen the Raven, and Slinopere his son: to whom relating the difference, the Raven adjudged that the Ser-

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of Reynard the FOX.

pent should eat the Man, hoping that he and his son should get a share also. But the Man said, How shall he that is a robber, and lives by blood, judge the cause? it must not be one but divers, and such as know both Law and Equity, that must judge this Contention: the Raven is neither just, nor indifferent.

Then they travelled till they met the Bear and the Wolf, unto whom also they told the matter, and they adjudged against the Man likewise. Then the Serpent began to cast his Venom at the Man; but the Man leaped away, and said, You do me wrong thus to attempt to kill me: and the Serpent said, Hath not Judgment gone twice on my side? Yes, said the Man, by such as are Murderers themselves, and such as never kept promise; but I appeal to the Court, let me be tried by your King, and what Judgment he giveth, I will willingly abide. To this all consented: So they came to the Court before your Majesty, and the Wolfs two Children came with their Father, the one was called Empty-belly, the other Navel-full, because they sought to devour the Man. So the full process of the matter was declared to your Majesty: but the Man's kindness and covenant, the Serpents danger and Faith-breach, occasioned through the extremity of hunger. Remember how much your Highness was perplexed with their difference, and all your Council also: For the Man's sorrow, the Serpent's hunger: the Man's goodness, and the Serpent's ingratitude, equally raised much pity in your bosome. But in the end, such doubts rose, that not any in your Court was able to judge it. At the last, when no help could be found, then you command my Kinsman Reynard to decide the business: then was he Oracle of the Court, nor was any thing received, but what he propounded: But he told your Majesty that it was impossible to give true Judgment according to their relations, but if he might see the Serpent in what manner he was fettered, and the greatness of his danger, then he knew well how to give Judgment therein. Then you commended him, and called him by the title of Lord Reynard, approving that to be done which he had spoken.

Then

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Then went the Man and the Serpent to the place where the Serpent was snar'd, and Reynard commanded the Serpent to be fastned as befoze in the snickle, which being done, then said your Maiesty, Reynard, what Iudgment will you now gibe? and he replied, They are now, my Lord, in the



same estate they were befoze at their first encounter: they have neither won nor lost: Therefore this is my sentence, if it be your Maiesties pleasure, if the Man will now loose and unbind the Serpent, upon the same promise and Oath made formerly unto him, he may at his pleasure: But if he think that hunger or other inconvenience will make him break his Faith, then may the Man freely go whether he will, and leave the Serpent bound and intzelled as he first found him: for it is fit that ingratitude be so repaid. This Iudgment your Maiesty then applauded for the most excellent, and held the Wisdom of the Fox unimitable, terming him

of Reynard the FOX.

him the preserver of your Honour. When did ever the Bear, or Wolf the like? they can hotel, or scold, steal, rob, and eat fat morsels, make their guts crack with others ruins; and condemn him to death which takes a Chicken; but themselves will kill Kine, Oxen, and Horses, and they go safe, and be accounted as wise as Solomon, Avicen, or Aristotle, and their Deeds and Statutes must be read for Monuments. But if they come where Virtue is to be exercised, they are the first which retreat, and let the simple go foremost whilst they follow in the Rear with shame and cowardise. These (my Lord, and the like) are the fools of these corrupt times, yet destroy Towns, Castles, Land and People: nor care they whose house burneth, so they may warm them by the fire: for it is their profit only at which their aim bendeth. But Reynard the Fox, and all his Family, have ever made the Honour of the King their renown and advancement, and applied their counsel to do him service, not pride and boasting: This hath been and is his exercise, though it now be thankless. But time, I hope, will produce whose merit is greatest. Your Majesty says, his Kindred is fallen from him, and start at his fortune: would any but your Highness have affirmed it, you should then have seen there could not be a thing of greater falsehood: But your Grace may say your pleasure, nor will I in any word oppose you: for to to him that so durst do, would both he and we bend our forces. It is known we dare fight, nor are we descended of any base Generation: Your Highness may call to mind the worth of our Pedigree, and how dearly from time to time they have respected him, willing even to lay down their lives and goods for the safety of their noble Kinsman Reynard, for mine own part, I am one my self, and albeit I am the Wife of another, yet for him I would not stick to spend my dearest blood: Besides, I have three full grown Children, which are known, valiant and strong in Arms, yet for his sake I would adventure them all to the uttermost peril, albeit I love them with that dear affection that no Mother doth exceed me: my first born is called Bitelas, which is

most

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most active and nimble; my second Fulrump; the third is a daughter called Hartanet, a girl that can look a Man's head, and pick out Lice more nimbly than all the Combs in Chastendom: and these three are loving and dear to one another: and with that she called them forth unto her, and said, Come my dear Childzen, and stand with your Kinsman the



Noble Reynard, and with you, come all the rest of our ancient family, and be all Petitioners to the King, that he will do to Reynard the equity of his Lawes and Kingdom, Then presently came forth a world of other Beasts, as the Squirrel, and the Ferret: for these love Bullen as well as Reynard doth: Then came the Otter and Pentecrote his Wife, which I had almayn forgotten, because in former time they had taken part with the Bear against the Fox, but now they dare not, but obey Dame Rukewaw, for they stood in fear of her wisdom and greatness: and with these came above twenty other

of Reynard the FOX.

other Beasts for her sake, and stood by Reynard. Then came also Dame Arrot and her two Sisters, the Weasel, and Harmel the Ass, the Bock, the Water-Cat, and many others, to the number of almost an hundred, and stood by Reynard, with such affection, as if his trouble did equally concern them. Then said the She-Ape, My Lord the King, now you may see my kinsman hath Friends that dare avow him; and we are your true and loyal Subjects, which will never fail to do you faithful service. Therefore let us with one voice beg of your Majesty, that Reynard may have Justice; and if he be not able to disprove his Adversary, and clear the Crimes imputed against him, let the Law pass, for we will not murmur to see his Destruction.

Then said the Queen to Rukenaw, Thus much I told unto his Majesty yesterday, but his anger was so great, he would not give ear to me. Also the Libard said, Sir, you must judge according to Witness: for to be governed by Will is tyrannous and ignoble. Then answered the King, It is true you inform me, but the disgrace done to my particular self in Kaywards death, and other informations, robb'd me of patience, that I had no leisure to look back either to Law or Reason: Therefore now let the Fox speak boldly, and if he can justly acquit himself of the Crimes laid against him, I shall gladly restore him his Liberty, and the rather for you his dear Friends sake, whom I have ever found Faithful and Loyal.

How infinitely glad was the Fox when he heard these Words, and said in himself, Thanks my noble Aunt a thousand times, thou hast put new Blossoms on my dry'd Roses, and set me in a fair path to Liberty. I have one good foot to dance on; and I doubt not but to use my Art of Dissimulation so bravely, that this day shall be remembered for my Renown and Victory.



CHAP.



C H A P. XXI.

How *Reynard* excused himself of *Kaywards* Death, and all other Imputations; got the Kings favour, and made relation of certain Jewels.

Then spake *Reynard* the Fox to the King, and said, Alas my Sovereign Lord, what is that you said? Is good *Kayward* the Hare dead? Where then is *Bellin* the Ram? or what did he bring to your Majesty at his return; for it is certain I delivered him three rich and inestimable Jewels, I would not for the Wealth of India they should be detained from you: the chief of them I directed to you my Lord the King, the other two to my Sovereign Lady the Queen. But (said the King) I received nothing but the Head of poor murdered *Kayward*, for which I executed the Ram, having confessed the deed to be done by his advice and counsel. Is this truth (said the Fox)? then wo is me that ever I was born;

of Reynard the FOX.

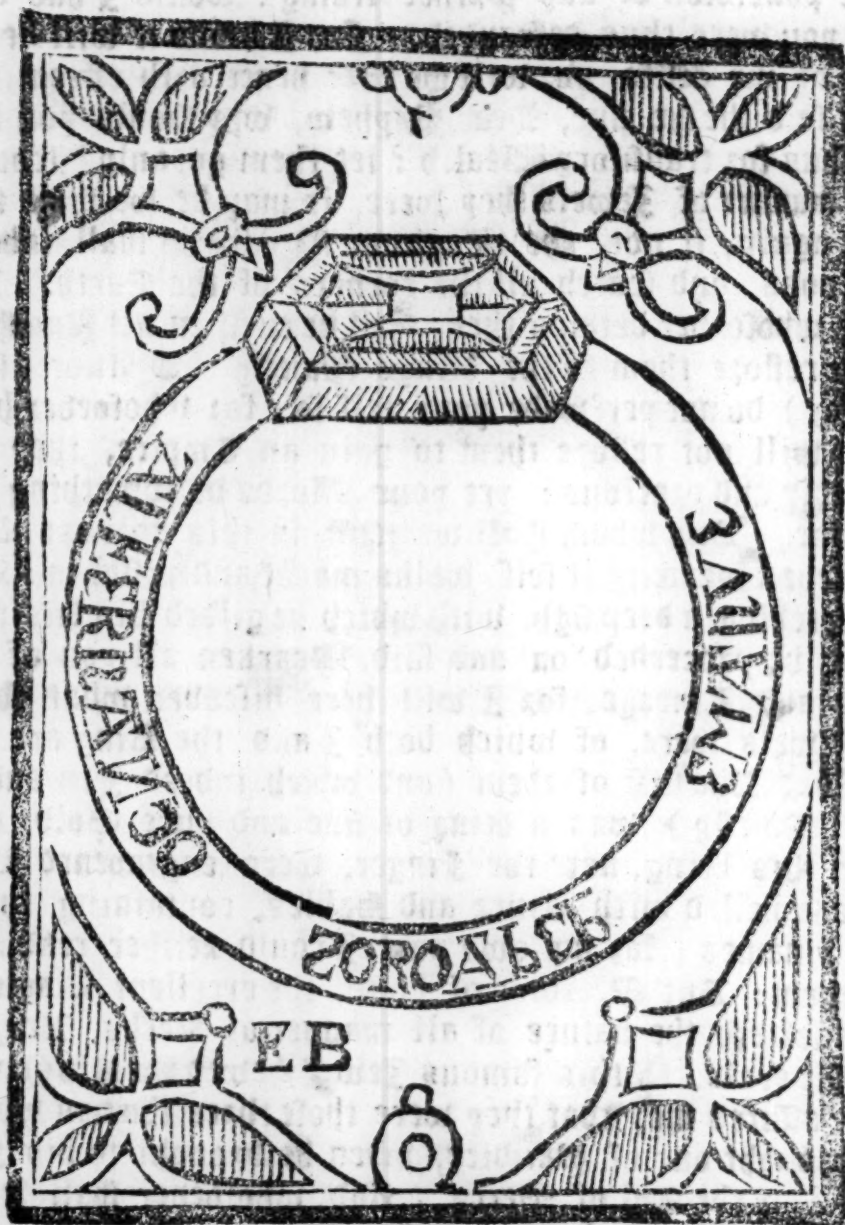
bozn; for there are lost the goodliest Jewels that ever were in the possession of any Prince living: would I had died when you were thus defrauded. For I know it will be the death of my Wife, nor will she ever henceforth esteem me. Then said the she-Ape, Dear Nephew, why should you sorrow thus for transitory Wealth? let them go, only discourse what manner of Jewels they were, it may be we shall find them again, if not, the Magician M. Alkarin shall labour his Books, and search all the corners of the Earth. Besides, whosoever detains them, shall be curst in all Parishes, till he restore them to the Kings Majesty. An Aunt (said the Fox) do not perswade your self so; for whosoever hath them, will not restore them to gain an Empire, they are so goodly and precious: yet your Words do something appease me. But whom shall we trust in this corrupt Age, when even Sanctity it self walks maskt and mistaken? And then fetching a deep sigh, with which he gilded his dissimulation, he proceeded on and said, Hearken all you of my Stock and Lineage, for I will here discover what these rich Jewels were, of which both I and the King are defrauded. The first of them (and which indeed I intended to his Majesty) was a Ring of fine and pure Gold, and within this Ring, next the Finger, were engravened Letters enamelled with Azure and Sables, containing three Hebrew names; for my own part I could neither read nor spell them: But M. Abron of Trete, the excellent Linguist, who knoweth the nature of all manner of Herbs, Beasts, and Minerals, to this famous Jew I shewed the Ring once, and he assured me, that they were those three Names which Seth brought out of Baridice, when he brought to his Father Adam the Opl of Mercy. And whosoever shall wear these three Names about him, shall never be hurt by Thunder and Lightning, neither shall any Witchcraft have power over him: He shall not be tempted to do any sin, neither shall heat or cold ever annoy him. Upon the top of the Ring was encast a most precious Stone of three several colours; The first like red Chrystal, and glittering like Fire, and that with such brightness, that if one had occasion to journey by Night, the light thereof was so great as

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The Moral.

By the relation which the Fox made of the Jewels & their several vertues and riches, is shewed the policy of the wicked, which are ever prepared of those baits which they know will soonest catch the minds of them they are to intangle: as Wealth, Health, Honour, and Vertue, all which are to be lodged in those Jewels. As for the stories contained in them, the Fox doth moralize them himself, shewing in them severally the imputations he would have the Lion know to be in his enemy, & such exam-

ples are ever more bitter, & work more in the mind or the heart, than any violent speech or invection



that at Noon-day. Throughout their colour was white and clear, as if it had been burnished; and the vertue of it was to cure any blemish or sozeness in the Eyes, or any part of the Body: Also (by stroaking the place grieved therewithal) it presently cureth all manner of Swellings Head-aches, or any Sicknes whatsoever, whether it were Melanchom, Weakness of Stomach, Collick, Stone Strangulli-

on,

of Reynard the FOX.

on, Fistula, or Canker, either outwardly applied as afore
 shewed, or inwardly, by sleeping the Stone in Water, and
 then drinking the same. The last colour was Green like
 Brass, mixt with a few small spots of Purple: and the
 Learned affirmed for truth, that whosoever wears this Stone
 about him, could never be vanquish'd by his Enemies; and
 that no Creature, were he never so strong and hardy, but
 would yield unto him, and he should be Victoꝝ Day and Night
 in all places. Again, as far as one bore it fasting, into
 what company soever he chanced (were they his worst ene-
 mies) yet should he be of them infinitely beloved, nor
 should any angry or ill turn be remembꝛed: Also if one
 should be naked in a vast wide field, against an hundred
 armed Enemies, yet should not his Heart fail him, but he
 should come off with Honour and Victoꝝ: only he must
 be nobly bred, and of no churlish Disposition; for the King
 gave no vertue to any which was not a true Gentleman.
 Now all these Vertues considered, I thought my self un-
 worthy to keep it: and therefore I sent it to you my Lord
 the King, knowing you to be the most excellent of all Crea-
 tures living; and one on whom all our Lives depend, and
 therefore fittest to be guarded with so rich a Jewel.

whatsoever.
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 ring of his and
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 deeds past; not
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 brance of any
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 ceived, for it is
 an obligation
 they seldom
 cancel.

This Ring I found in my Fathers Treasure: and in
 the same place also I found a Comb, and a Glass Mir-
 rour, which my Wife desired of me: they were Jewels
 of great wonder and admiration: these were sent to my
 Lady the Queen, because of her Grace and Mercy extended
 towards me: to speak of the Comb it can never be too
 much praised, for it was made of the Bone of a noble Beast
 named Panthera, which lieth between the greater India
 and earthly Paradise, he is so goodly and fair of colour,
 that there is no beautiful colour under Heaven but some
 splendor thereof appears in him: also the smell of him
 is so delicate, sweet and wholesome, that the very savour
 cureth all Infirmitie; and for his excellent Beauty and rare
 odour, all other Beasts attend and follow him, for he is the
 Physician to all their Sickneses. This Panthera hath one
 fair Bone broad and thin, which whensoever this Beast is
 slain,

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slain, and the virtues of the whole Beast do rest in that bone which can never be broken, neither ever rot, consume or perish, either by Water, Fire, or other Violence: yet it is so light, a small Feather may poise it: the smell of it



that vertue, tha whosoever scents it, taketh Delight in no other smell whatsoever, and they are presently eased of all manner of Diseases and Infirmities; and the Heart is cheerfull and merry ever after.

This Comb is polished like unto fine Silver, and the teeth of it be small and straight; and between the great teeth and the small, in a large field or space, there is graven many an Image subtilly made, and cunningly enamelled about with fine Gold: the field is chequer'd with Sables and Silver, and enamell'd with Hyboz and Azure! and therein is contained the story how Venus, Juno, and Pallas, strove for the Golden Ball in the Mountain Ida, and how it was put to Paris to give it to the fairest of them.

of Reynard the FOX.

Paris at that time was a Shepherd, and kept his Flocks with Onone, on that hill; and as soon as she had received the Ball, Juno promised if he would bestow it on her, she would make him the richest Man in the World. Pallas said, that if she might have it, to make him the wisest Man in the World, and the most fortunate against his Enemies. But then Venus said, what needest thou Wealth, Wisdom, or Valour? Art thou not Priamus Son, and Hectors Brother, which have all Asia under their power? Art thou not one of the Heirs of mighty Troy? come give me the Ball, and I will give thee the goodliest Treasure of the World, and that shall be the fairest Lady breathing: she whose like no Sun shall ever again behold: so shalt thou be richer than Riches, and climb above all in Glory: that is the Wealth none can praise too much, since Beauty is that heavenly Elixer which turns all things into Joy and Contentment.

When Paris heard this, he desired to know the Lady, and Venus said, It is Hellen of Grece, the Wife of King Menelaus; she that is Jem of the World, the Treasure of Beauty, and the Glozy of all Eyes which did behold her: Then presently Paris gave her the Ball, and confirm'd her fairer then the other Goddesses. Then another place was figured how he won Hellen, brought her to Troy, the solemnity at the Marriage, the honour of the Triumphs, and all things else contained in that large Story.

Now for the Glass-mirroꝝ, it was not inferiour to either of the other: for the Glass that stood thereon, was of such vertue, that Men might see and perceibe therein whatsoever was done within a mile thereof, whether it was the actions of Man, or Beast, or any thing else the Owner should desire to know: and whosoever but gazed therein, if he had any Malady whatsoever, it was presently cured. So great were the vertues of this rare Glass, that wonder not if I shed tears to think of the loss: for the Wood in which this Glass stood was light and fast, and is called Qatine, it will last ever; for Worms, Dust, Wet, nor Time can consume it, and therefore King Solomon seeled his Temple with the

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the same : the value far exceeding that of Gold, it is like
to, the Wood Hebenus, of which King Crampart made
Horse, for the love of the most beautiful Daughter of King
Marcadiges. This Horse was made with such Art within

of *Reynard* the FOX.

that whosoever rode no it, if he pleased, he would run aboue an hundred miles in less than an hour, which was approued by Clamades the Kings Son; who not believing in the Engine, and being young and lusty, leapt upon the Horse, and presently Crampart turning a pin that stood in the West of the Engine, moved and went out of the Palace through the Windows, and in the first minute he was gone at least ten miles. Clamades was much affrighted at the wonder, and imagined (as the Story said) that he should never have returned back again: But of this long journey, much fear, great trouble, and infinite joy, when he had learned to manage and govern the woden Beast, I leave to speak for tediousness sake; only the high vertue of all issued from the Wood.

Of this Wood the Glass-case was made, being larger than the Glass by half a foot and more, square; upon which berge was cepphered diuers many strange Histories in Gold, in Silber, Sables, Pellow, Azure and Cynope: and these Colours were very curiously wrought and interlaid together, and under each History the words so engraven and enameled, that any Man might read the whole Story: believe it, the World never produced a thing of greater worth, luster or pleasure. In the upper part thereof stood a Horse in his natural glory, fat, fair, and fiery, which braced a stately Hart which ran before him; but seeing he could not overtake this Hart in swiftness, at which he infinitely disdained, he went to a Herdsman standing by, and told him if he would help him to take a Hart which he would shew him, he should have all the profit of the conquest, as the Horns, Skin and Flesh: When the Herdsman asked him what means he should use to get him: the Horse said, Mount upon my Back, and I will bear thee after him, till with tiring we take him. The Herdsman took his offer, and bestriding the Horse, followed the Deer; but he fled away so fast, and got so much ground of the Horse, and with much labour the Horse grew weary, and he bade the Herdsman light, for he would rest him a while. But the the Herdsman said, I have a Bridle an thy Head, and Spurs on my Heels, therefore know thou art now my Seruant, neither will I part with thee, but govern thee as seems best to my pleasure. Thus

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The Pleasant History

the Horse brought himself into thralldom, and was taken in his own net: for no Creature hath a greater Adversary than his own enmy: and many that labour the hurt of others, still fall upon their own ruins.

In another part was figured an Asse and a Hound, which were both the Serbants of a rich Man. This Man loved his Hound exceedingly, and would oft play with him, and suffer the Dog to fawn and leap upon him, and now and then to lick him about the Mouth. Now when Bauldwin the Asse saw this, he began to envy the Hound, and said, What sees my Master in this foul Hound, that he suffers him thus to leap upon him and kiss him? I see no profitable service he doth him; I labour, bear and draw, and do more service in one Week, than the Dog and his whole kind are able to do in a Year, and yet have I not the tythe of his Favours: for he sitteth by his Trencher, eats the fat of his Meat, and lies on Carpets and Pillows: when I that do all am fed only with Nettles and Thistles: Well, I will no longer indure it, but I will study to have my Lords favour as much as the Hound, if not in greater measure. Anon the Master of the House came home, and the Asse lifting up his tail, leapt with his fore-feet on his Mouth to kiss him, and used such rude unmannerly actions, that he rubb'd all the skin from his Masters Cars, and almost overtrew him; so that the Man was forc'd to cry out, Help, help, for this Asse will kill me. Then come in his Serbants with staves, and beat the Asse so exceedingly, that he was almost slain: which done, he returned to his stall again, and was an Asse as he was before. In the same manner, they which do envy and spight at others welfare: if they receive the same reward, it is nothing more than is due to their merit: for an Asse is an Asse, and was born to eat Thistles: and where Asses go-vern, there order is never observed; for they have no eye either on this side, or beyond their own private profit: yet sometimes they are advanced, the more is the pity.

In another part was figured the Story, how my Father and Tibert the Cat travelled together, and had sworn by their troth, that neither for love nor hate they would depart one from the other: but it happened on a time, they saw

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of Reynard the FOX.

Hunters coming over the Fields with a Kennel of Hounds, from which they fled apace, for their Lives were in danger. Then said the Fox, Tibert whither shall we fle; for the Hunters have espied us? for my own part, I have a thousand wiles to escape them, and as long as we abide together, we shall not need to fear them. But the Cat began to fight, and was exceedingly afraid, and said, Reynard, what need many words? I have but one wile, and that must help me, and forthwith he clambred up to the top of a high Tree, where he lurk'd amongst the Leaves, that neither Huntsman nor Hounds could hurt him, and left my Father to abide the whole hazard, for the whole Kennel pursued him, Horns and Hollows ecchoing after him, Kill the Fox, kill the Fox.

This when Tibert saw, he mocked my Father, and said, Now Cousin Reynard, it is time to let loose all your wiles, for if your Wit fail you, I fear your whole Body will perish. This my Father hearing from him he most trusted and being then in the hight of his pursuit wearied, and almost spent, he let his Male slip from his Shoulders, to make himself so much the lighter; yet all avail'd not, for the Hounds were so swift they had caught him, had he not by chance espied a hole into which he entred, and escaped the Hounds and Huntsmen. Then you may see the false Faith of the Cat, like whom there may be many living at this time; and though this might well excuse me from loving the Cat, yet my Soules health and charity binds me to the contrary, and I wish him no hurt, though his misfortunes shall never be grievous to me: not so much for hatred, as the remembrance of his Injuries, which often contends against my Reason.

Also in that Mirrour stands another History of the Wolf, how on a time he found upon a Heath a dead Horse, whose flesh being eaten away, he was faine to gnaw and devour the bones; which he did with such greediness, that swallowing them too hastily down, one fell so cross his throat, that he was almost chock'd and hardly escaped with life: whereupon he sought every place for the cunningest Surgion, promising him great gifts to ease his torments: but having lost much labour, in the end he met with the Crane, and besought

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him with his long Peck and Bill to help him, and he would highly reward him. The Crane greedy of gain, put in his Head into the Wolfs Throat, and brought out the Bone. The Wolf started at the pull, and cried out aloud, Thou hurtest me, but I do forgive thee: yet do it not again I charge thee, for at anothers hands I would not bear it: then the Crane said, Sir Ilegum, go and be frolick, you are whole, I look for no more but the reward you promised me: How (said the Wolf) what impudence is this? I suffer and have cause to complain, yet he will be rewarded, he will not so much as thank me for his life, but forgets that his Head was in my Mouth, and how I suffered him to draw in out again without hurting, albeit he put me to exceeding much pain: I suppose it is I which deserve the reward and not the Crane.

Thus you may see the fashion of ungrateful Men in these Days, how they ever rewarded Good with Evil: for where Pride is exalted, there Honour is ever laid in the dust. There be a world which ought to reward, and do good to those that have advanced them, which now complain, and make those advancements injuries, but the guardion will follow: for it is the wisest counsel, That whosoever will go about to chastise another, should ever be sure of his own clearness. All this, and a world more than I can well remember, was curiously wrought on this Glass: for the Work-master thereof was the cunningest and profoundest Clark in all Sciences that ever breathed. And because the Jewels were too good and precious for me to keep, therefore I sent them to the King and Queens Majesties as a Present, to witness my Faith and Service: O he that had seen what sorrows my Childzen made when I sent the Glass away, would have wondered; for by reason of the great virtue therein, they oft gazed in the same; both to behold themselves, and to see how their Cloathing and Apparel became them.

Little did I then imagine good Kayward was so near his death: for, than but himself, and Bellin the Ram, I knew no Messenger worthy to carry such a Present. But I will search the whole World, but I will find the Murderer; for Murder cannot be hid. It may be, he is in this Presence
which

of Reynard the FOX.

which knowes what is become of Kayward, albeit he do conceal it; for many Devils walk like Saints. Yet the greatest wonder of all is (which troubled me most) that my Lord the King should say, that my Father, nor my self, ever did good. But the troubles of affairs may well breed forgetfulness in Kings, otherwise your Majesty might call to mind how when the King your Father lived, and you were a Prince not above two years old my Father came from the School at Mountpelier, where he had studied five years the Art of Physick and was expert in all the Principles thereof, and so famous in those Days, that he wore Cloaths of Silk and a Golden Girdle. Now when he was come to the Court, he found the King in great extremity of sickness, (which was no little grief unto him, for he loved the King most dearly) and the King rejoiced at his sight, and would not suffer him to be out of his presence. All others might walk whither they would, only he must ever be near him. Then said your Father, Reynard, I am exceeding sick, and I feel my sickness increasing. My Father answered, My Lord, here is a Urinal, make Water therein, and as soon as I behold your state I will give you my opinion. The King did as he was advised (for he trusted not any equal with him.) Then said my Father, My best Lord, if you will be eased of your grief, you must needs eat the Liguor of a Wolf of seven years old, or else your Disease is incurable.

The Wolf at that time stood by your Father, but said nothing, whereupon the King said, Sir Hegrim, you hear how there is nothing which can cure me but your Liguor. The Wolf replied, Not so my Lord, for I am not yet full five years old. It is no matter (answered my Father) let him be opened, and when I see the Liguor, I will tell you if it be medicinable. Then was the Wolf carried to the Kitchen, and his Liguor taken out, which the King did eat, and was presently cured of his sickness. Then the King thanked my Father, and commanded all his Subjects on pain of death, from thenceforth to call him Master Reynard. So he abode still about the King, walking by his side, and was trusted in all things, and the King gave him (for an honour) a Garland of Roses, which he must ever wear

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wear upon his Head. But these remembrances are all lost and gone, and his Enemies are now only advanced; Virtue is put back, and Innocence lies in sorrow; for when Baseness and Covetousness are made Commanders, they neither know themselves nor look at the lowliness from whence they are risen. They have no Hearts for pity, nor Cars for the poor Mans cause. Gold is the Gole they run to, and Gift the God which they worship. What great Mans Gate doth not look upon Covetousness? where is not Flatters entertained? and what Prince takes hate at his own praises? But should greatness need their honest service, well might they starve ere they could gain that imployment: for like Wolbes, they had rather see their Masters die then lend them the least part of their Liquor.

This, my Lord, was an accident which fell in your youth, and you may well forget it: Yet (without boasting) I myself may say, I have done to you both Honour and Service, and you haply also forget this which I shall repeat, which I know I do not to upbraid your Majesty, for you are ever worthy of more than I can render, and my uttermost is but the rent of a Loyal Subject, which I am ever bound by the Laws of God and Nature to perform.

So it was, that on a time Hegrim the Wolf and I had gotten a Swine under us, and by reason of his extreme loud crying, we were compelled to bite him to death. At which time your self came out of a Grotto unto us, and saluted us friendly, saying, That you and the Queen your Wife which came after you, were both exceeding hungry and intreated us to give you part of our getting: Hegrim then whispered in such manner, that none could understand him: but I spake out aloud, With all my Heart my Lord, and were it better than it is, it were too mean for your service. But Hegrim according to his wont departed grumbling, and took half of the Swine, giving you and the Queen but one poor quarter, the other he himself unmannerly devoured and left me for my share but poor half of the Lungs. When your Majesty had eaten your part, you were still hungry, but the Wolf would deliver none; so that you reacht him a blow with your Foot, which tore all the skin from about his

Cars,

of Reynard the FOX.

Ears, so that he run away crying and howling with extremity. But your Majesty commanded him to return again speedily, and bring you more Meat, but he went away grumbling. Then I besought your Majesty, that I might go with him: and I well remember your answer. So away we went together, his Ears dropping Blood all the way as he went: in the end we took a Calf, and when your Majesty saw us bring it, you laughed and said to me, I was a swift Huntsman, and could find my game quickly, and therefore I was fit to serve in time of necessity: Then you bade me to divide it, and I did it, and gave one half thereof to your Majesty, the other half to the Queen: as for the Muggets, Liver, Lungs, and all the Inwards, I sent them to the young Princes your Children: As for the Head I gave it to Hegrim the Wolf, and took unto my self but the feet only. Then said your Majesty, Ah Reynard, who taught you to make these courteous divisions? My Lord (answered I) that did this Priest which sits here with his bloody Wate: for he lost his Skin for his too much inequality, and for his covetousness hath reaped nothing but shame and dishonour. But it matters not, for there be many Wolves in these days, that would even eat up their best Friends and Kinsmen: Nay, if they had power, even your Majesty also; for they make no respect either of Friend or Enemy. But woe to that Commonwealth where such have the upper-hand and government.

My gracious Lord, this and many such like Actions as this have I done for your Majesty, which were it not for tediousness sake, I could well repeat. But they are all now cast out of your remembrance, but time and my loyalty I hope will one day again recal them. I have seen the day when no matter was finished in the Court without my advice and censure: though now that Judgment is not so reputed, yet it may be the same Reputation may spring up again, and be believed as firmly as before, as long as it swerves not from Justice, which is the only thing I aim at. For if any one can charge me otherwise; and prove it by witnesses, here I stand to endure the uttermost the Law can inflict upon me: But if malice only slander me without witness, I crave the

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the Combat according to the Law, and instance of the Court. Then said the King, Reynard, you say well: nor know I any thing more of Kaywards death, than the bringing of his Head unto me by Bellin the Ram; therefore of it I here acquit you. My dear Lord (said the Fox) I humbly thank you: yet is his death so grievous unto me, I cannot let it pass so easie: I remember my Heart was heavy at his departure, and I was ready to sink to the Ground, which was a certain presage of the loss which happened.

These words, and the sad looks of the Fox so amazed all the beholders, that they could not chuse but believe all that he uttered, so that every one bemoan'd his loss, and pitied his sorrow. But the King and Queen were most touched with the same, and then intreated him that he would make diligent search for the finding them out, for his praises had stricken them far in love with the Jewels. And because he told them, he had sent those Jewels unto them (though they never saw them) yet they gave him as great thanks, as if they had been in their safe possession, and desired him he would be a means they might be restored to them again.

of Reynard the FOX.

CHAP. XXII.

How Reynard made his peace with the King, and how
Isegrim the Wolf complained of him again

The Fox understood their meaning exceeding well, and
though he little meant to perform what they intreated,



yet he thanked the King and Queen for the comforts they
gave

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gave him in his great extremities, bowing not to rest either Night or Day, but to search all the corners of the Earth till he had found what was become of those Jewels: also intreating his Majesty, that if they should be concealed in such places where he might be withstood by force, so as neither his Prayers nor Power might attain unto them, that then his Highness would assist him: both because it was an occasion which concerned him nearly, as also a thing required from his office, being an act of perfect Justice, to punish those, and murder both, which were concerned in this action.

When the King answered him, that so soon as it should be known where they were, no help or assistance should be wanting. The Fox gave the King humble thanks, for now he had gotten all his purposes to the wished end he expected, and by his false tale and flattery, had so fastened the King unto him, that now he might go freely whither he pleased, and none should dare to complain upon him: only Hecgrim the Wolf stood all this while infinitely displeased, and not able to contain his anger any longer: he said, O my Lord the King! is it possible your Majesty should be so childish or weak of belief, as to fix your trust on the falshood of this ever deceiving Merchant, which hath nothing but Shadows and Chymera's wherewith to inchant you? O be not so easily seduced, he is a Wretch all covered and besmeared with Murder and Treason, and even to your own face hath made a scoff of your Majesty. For my own part I am glad he is here in your presence, and I intend to ring him such a Deal of contrary nature, that all the lies he can invent, shall not bear him away with safety.

So it is (my dread Lord that this dissembling and false Traitor, not long since did betray my Wife most shamefully; for it happened on a Winters day, that they two travelled together through a very great Water, and he perswaded my Wife that would teach her a singular art how to catch Fish with her Tail, by letting it hang Angle-wise in the Water a good while: whereunto he said, there would so much Fish instantly cleave, that half a dozen of them should

of Renard the FOX.

should not be able to devour it. The silly fool my Wife
(supposing all to be truth which came from him) went presently into the mire up to the Belly before she came to the



Water; and coming into the depth of the Water (as he
directed her) she held her Tail down still in the Water, ex-
pecting when the Fish should cleave thereto: but the wea-
ther being sharp and frosty, she stood there so long, that her
Tail was frozen hard to the Ice, so that all the force she
had,

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had, was not able to pull it out: but when this lustful Villain beheld that, he presently leapt upon her and ravisht her, in such beastly and shameful manner, that no modest Ear is able to hear the odiousness of the action. My poor Wife being disarmed of all resistance, well might she shriek, cry, and feed upon the baine of her own Tears, but all to no purpose; the deed was done, and the Villain triumphed. This no Impudence can make him deny, for I came and took him in the action: O how much! jealousy, grief and fury assail'd me at that instant, I was even distracted to behold them: and cryed, Reynard, Villain, what art thou doing? but he seeing me so near approaching, presently leapt from her, and ran his way: so I went unto her with much sorrow and heaviness, having a world of labour ere I could break the Ice about her; and in dispiight of all my cunning, yet she was compelled to leave a pice of her Tail behind her: and indeed we both escaped hardly with our lives. For by reason of the great anguish she endured, she barked so loud, the People of the next Village rose up and came with Staves and Bills, with Flails and Witch-forks, and the Wives with their Distaves; and so fiercely assaulted us, crying kill, kill, and slay, slay, that I never was in so desperate a taking. One Slave amongst the rest, which was strong and swift of foot, hurt us sore with a Pike-staff: and had not the Night befriended us, we had never escaped that danger. From hence we came into a field full of Brooms and Brambles, where we hid us from the fury of our Enemies. Thus my Gracious Lord, you have heard how this Traitor and Murderer hath used us, and against the same we crave the right of your Law and Justice.

But Reynard answered, and said, If this were true, I confess it would touch me near in Honour and Reputation: but God forbid that such a slander should be proved against me: I confess, I taught her to catch Fish, and taught her how to enter the Water, and never touch the Fire: but her greediness so transported her, when she heard me name the Fish, that she ran without respect of any path or direction; and so coming into the Ice, she was there presently

frozen

of Reynard the FOX.

frozen, by reason of her too long tarrying, for she had more
fish than would have satisfied twenty reasonable Ap-
petites: but it is commonly seen, that who all would have,
all forego: for Covetousness seldom bringeth any thing
well home: yet when I saw her so fastned in the Ice, I
used all my best endeavours to loosen her, and so indeed was
heaving and shoving about her, but to little purpose; for by
reason of her weight I was not able to move her.

Now whilst this was in doing, came Isegrim. and seeing
one so busie about her, Churl-like he most vilely slandered
me, like a profuse Mistral, which take s delight to be ac-
counted a Cuckold: but believe it, my gracious Lord all
was false, and his Wife virtuous, for any thing within
my knowledge: whence I am perswaded, that surely his
Eyes dazelled: for indeed, he uttered many a gribeous
Curse, and threatned much rebengment against me; so
that more to eschew his Blasphemy than Fury, I went my
way; and he came, and with as great ado, as much heave
and shobe he helpt her out; which done (then they almost
starved with cold) ran and skipt up and down the fields to
get them heat; and that this is all truth which I have spo-
ken, I willingly be deposed; for I would not be the Fa-
ther of any falsehood before your Majesty, to be Master of ma-
ny Millions: however my Fortunes go, I respect not, Truth
is my Badg, and hath ever been the Ensign of all my An-
cestors: and if there be any scruple or doubt of mine asser-
tion: I ask but eight days liberty, that I may confer with
my Learned Council, and I will so approve all my Words,
by Oath and Testimony of good and sufficient Witnesses, that
your Majesty, and your Honourable Council shall accord to
the justness of my Protestation. As for the Wolf, what
have I to do with him? It is well known already, that he is
a debauchd and almost notorious Villain; false both to Heaven
and your Majesty, and now his own Words witness him a
base slanderer of Women: therefore I refer my self to the tryal
of his Wife if she accuse me, let the World hold me guilty;
provided she may be made free from her Husband, whose ty-
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The Moral.

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doth, and can
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thing with a
pretence of

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goodness. The Fox's contempt of the Wolf, shews, that strength or policy consists in disgracing the adverse part, & calling the good name in question, by which means he may lose his life and credit. By the she-Wolf falling into the Well, shews, the effect of covetousness, which never

tyranny will compel her to say any thing, though never unjustly.

At this, forth stepped Dame Arsewind the Wolf's Wife, and said, O Reynard, thou hast so oply a smooth Tongue, and so dipt in flattery, that no Man is safe from thine incantment: it is not once but oft thou hast deceived me; remember but how thou didst use me at the Well with two Buckets, which hanging at one Cord, and running through one Pulley, which ever as one went down, the other went up, I remember how thou getting into one of them, fell'st down to the bottom of the Well, and there sarest in great danger and peril, so that I ran thither with great haste, and heard thee sigh and made great moan: then asking thee how thou cam'st there? thou answerd'st me that thou wert there a fishing, and hadst so much fish, of which thou hadst eaten so many, that thy Belly was ready to break with swelling: then I asked how I might come to thee; and thou said'st, Aunt, leap into that Bucket which hangeth there, and thou wilt



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of Reynard the FOX.

he presently with me: which I no sooner did, but (being much heavier than thy self) I fell presently to the bottom of the Well, and thou camest up to the top: at which, when I seemed to be angry, thou saidst, Aunt, this is but the fashion of the World, ever as one comes up, another must go down; and so said, you leapt out of the Bucket, and ran your way, leaving me there all alone, where I remained a whole day, pined with hunger, and starved with cold; and ere I could get out from thence, receiving so many blows, that my life was never in greater danger. The Fox replied, Aunt, though the strokes were painful unto you, yet I had rather you should have them than my self, for you are stronger and better able to bear them: and at that time of necessity one of us could not escape them: besides Aunt, I taught you Wisdom and Experience, that you should not trust either Friend or Foe, when the matter he perswades to, is the avoiding of his own Veril: for Nature teacheth us to love our own Welfare, and he which doth otherwise, is crowned with nothing but the title of Folly.

brings any thing home but loss and danger; and that policy cares not who pines, so he feel no pain, as appears by the Fox's tempting her into the Bucket. By their entering into the the-Apes-Cave is shewed the difference betwixt temperance & rashness, and how far good words will prevail before rude and churlish behaviour

Then said Dame Arfewind to the King, I beseech your Majesty, mark how this Dissembler can blow with all Winds, and paint his mischief with false Colours: a world of times hath he brought me into these hazards. Once he betray'd me to my Aunt the She-Ape, where ere I escaped, I was fain to leave one of my Ears behind me: if the Fox dare tell the truth of the Story (for I know his memory to be much better: besides, he is apt to catch advantage from the weakness of Language) I desire no better Evidence against him. Then said the Fox, Willingly I will do it, and without flattery or falshood, and therefore I beseech your Majesty to lend me your Royal Presence.

Upon a certain time the Wolf here came to me into the Wood, and complained unto me, that he was exceeding hungry, (yet never saw him fuller in my life) but he would ever dissemble: at which, presently I took pity of him, and said, I was also as hungry as he: so away we went and travelled half a day together without finding any thing; then

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then began he to whine and cry, and said, he was able to go no further. Then hard by the foot of a Hathorn-tree, we espied a hole all covered over with Brambles, and heard a great rushing therein, but could not imagine the cause why: then I desired the Wolf to go in, and look if any thing was there to profit us, (for something I knew there was) then said he, Cousin, I would not creep into the hole for a hundred pounds till I know certainly what is therein, for there may be danger: but if you please to attempt it, who I know hath both Art and Wit to save your self, I will stay here under this Tree till you return: but I beseech you to make haste, and let me know what is therein, as soon as you perceive it.

Behold my dread Lord the King, thus he made me, poor silly Beast, to go before into the hazard, and he who is great, strong and mighty, did abide without in peace, wherein I express no little friendship, for I would not endure the like danger for a Kingdom: but to proceed, I entered into the hole, and found the way dark, long, and tedious: in the end I espied a great light, which came in on the other side of the hole, by which, I saw there lying a great She-Ape, with Eyes glimmering and sparkling with Fire, her Mouth set round with long sharp Teeth, and on her Hands, Nails sharp as an Elsin, or Bodkin. I imagined her at first a Parmazin, or Baboon, or else a Per-cat, for a more dreadful Beast I never beheld in all my life time, and by her side lay divers of her Children, which like her self were cruel and stern of Countenance: when they saw me come towards them, they gaped wide with their Mouths upon me, so that I grew amazed, and with't my self far from their harbour. But resolving with my self, that now I was in, I must quit my self as well as I could, I looked more constantly upon her, and methought she appeared bigger then Hergrim the Wolf, and the least of her Brats much larger then my self (for a fouler company I never saw) they were all laid in foul Litter, rotten and dirty with their own Wills they were all daubed and clogged with their own Dung, which stunk so

of Reynard the FOX.

so filthy, that I was almost poisoned with the smell. For my own part, I durst not but speak them fair, and therefore I said, Aunt, God give you many good days, and bless you and my Cousins, your pretty Children: questionless they are the fairest of their ages that ever I beheld; and so surpass in beauty and perfection, that they may well be accounted of most princely Issue. Truly Aunt, we are infinitely beholding to you that doth add this increase and glory to your family. For mine own part (dear Aunt) when I heard you were laid down and delibered, I could not stay, but needs must come and visit you. Then replied she, Cousin Reynard, you are exceeding welcome: you have found me like a slut, but I thank you for your kind visitation: you are a worthy Gentleman, and (thorow the Kings Dominions) for your wit and judgement, held of singular reputation; you do much honour to our kindred, and are famous for the means you work to their preferment: I must intreat you to take the charge of my Children, and instruct them in the rules of knowledge and science, that they may know hereafter how to live in the World. I have thought of you ever since they were born, and resolved upon this, Cousin, because I knew your perfection, and that you accompanied your self with the good and virtuous.

I how glad was I when I heard those words to proceed from her! which kindness was only because at first I called her Aunt, who indeed was no foul kin unto me: for my true Aunt indeed is only Dame Rukewaw, which standeth ponder: who indeed is mother of excellent Children. Yet notwithstanding I answered this foul Monster: Aunt, my life and goods are both at your Service, and what I can do for you night or day, shall ever be at your Commandment, and your Childrens. Yet I most heartily wish my self far from them at that instant, for I was almost poisoned with their stink. And I pitied Hecgrim, who was sore grieved with hunger all this while: and offering to take my leave, feigning that my wife would think it long till my return, She said, Dear Cousin, you shall not depart till you have eaten something, I shall take it un-
kindly

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kindly if you offer it: then rose she up: and carried me into an inner Room, where was great store of all kind of Venison: both the Red Deer, Fallow-Deer, and Boes, and great store of Partridge, Pheasant, and other Fowls, that I amazed much from whence such store of meat should come. Now when I had eaten sufficiently, she gave me a side, and half a haunch of an Hind to carry home to my Wife, which I was ashamed to take, but that she compelled me: and so taking my leave, and being intreated often to visit her, I did depart from thence, much joyed that I had sped so well.

Now being come out of the Causey, I spied whereas Isegrim lay groaning pitifully; and I asked him how he fared? He said wondrous ill, and so extreemly ill, that (dear Nephew) without some meat, I die presently: then did I take compassion on him, and gave him my Wifes token, which preserved his life; and for which then he gave me a world of thanks, though now he hate me extreemly. But as soon as he had devoured up my Venison, he said, Reynard, my Dear Cousin, what found you in the hole? believe it I am now more hungry than I was before; and this small morsel hath but sharpened my teeth to eat more. Then said I to him, Uncle get you into the hole, and you shall find store of Victuals, for their lieth my Aunt with her Childzen: if you can flatter and speak her fair, you need fear no hard measure, all things will be as you would wish it.

I think (my gracious Lord) this was warning sufficient, and that which might have armed any wise spirit; but rude and barbarous Beasts will never understand wisdom. And therefore they loath the policies they know not. But yet he promised to follow my counsel: so forth he went into that foul sinking hole, and found the Ape in that filthy sort as before I described, which when he saw (being affrighted) he cried out, Mo and alas, I think I am come into hell: did ever creature see such fearful goblins? Drown them, for shame drown them, they are so ugly, they are able to scare the Devil; why, they make my hair stand an end with their horrid deformity. Then (said she)

Sir

of Reynard the FOX.

Sir Isegrim, their Creation is not my fault let it suffice they are my Childzen, and I am their Mother. Noz ought their beauty oz hard labour to displease you: here was a kinsman of theirs too day, and is but newly departed, who is well known to exceed you both in birth, virtue and wisdom, and he accounted them fair and lobely; for your opinion I care not: therefore you may depart at your pleasure. Then he replied, Dame, I would have you know, that I would eat of your meat, it is much better bestowed on me, than on those ugly Archins. But she told him, she had no meat: Pea (said he) here is meat enough; and with that, offering to reach at the meat, my Aunt started up with her Childzen, and ran at him with their sharp nails, and so clawed him, that the blood ran about his ears, and I heard him cry and howl so extreamly, that it appeared he had no defence but to run out of the hole as fast as he could. For indeed, he came out both extreamly beaten, and extreamly bitten, and all his skin flastht like a Spanish Jerkin: and one ear left behind, as a pawn of his manners.

This when I saw, I asked him if he had flattered sufficiently; and he said, he had spoken as he found; for the Dame was a foul Witch, and the Litter most ugly Monsters. Then I told him, how he should have commended their beauties, and took them for the best of his alliance. And he replied, he had rather have seen them all hang'd. Then (quoth I) you must always receive such reward as now you do, but wisdom would do otherwise; a lie sometimes as much abaileth, as a true tale: and fair words never come out of season; and better than we, hold it for a rule woorthy of Imitation.

Thus my Lord, I have told you truly how he came by his red Night-cap, which I know he cannot, noz dare to deny, for all is true, without any addition.

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CHAP. XXIII.

How *Isegrim* proffer'd his Glove to *Reynard* to fight with him, which *Reynard* accepted : and how *Rukewan* advised the Fox to carry himself in the Fight.

THE Wolf answered the Fox, I may well forbear (false Villain, as thou art) thy mocks and scozns, but thine injuries I will not. Thou say, I was almost dead for hunger, when you helpt me in my need: but thou liest falsely therein, for it was nothing but a bare bone thou gavest me, when thou hadst gnawed all the meat thereof: and therefore know, in this thou injurest my reputation; again, thou accusest me of Treason against the King, and to conspire his Majesties death, for certain Treasure thou sayest is in Husterloe: also thou hast abused and slandered my Wife, which will ever be an infamy to her name, if it be not rebenged: these things considered, I have forborn you long, therefore now look not to escape; wherefore seeing there is no other testimony but our own Consciences: before you my Lord the King, and the rest of my Noble Lords, friends and alliances, here I will affirm and approve to the last drop of my Blood, that thou Reynard the Fox, art a false Traitor and a Murderer, and this I will approve and make good upon thy body within the Lists of the field, body against body, by which means our strife shall have an end; and in witness whereof, I cast thee here my Globe, which I dare thee to take up, that I may have right for my injuries, or else dye like a recreant.

Reynard was something perplexed when he saw this, for he knew himself much too weak for the Wolf, and feared to come by the worst: but straight rememb'ring the advantage he had, by reason the Wolfs fore-claws were pulled away, and that they were not yet fully cured, whatsoever he be that saith I am a Traitor or a Murderer, I say, he lieth in his Throat, especially Isegrim above all others: poor fool, thou bringest me to the place I desire, and to the purpose I wish for, in sign whereof I take up the gage, and

of Reynard the FOX.



and throw down mine, to prove all thy words lyes and falsehoods.

This said, the King received their pledges, and admitted the Battle, commanding them to put in their surety, that the next morrow they should try the Combat: then slept forth the Bear, and the Cat, and were sureties for the Wolf: and for the Fox were sureties Grimbard the Brock, and Berelas. When all Ceremonies were finished, the Sheriff took Reynard aside, and said, Nephew, I beseech you take

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The Moral.
By the Wolfs
challenging
the combat of
the Fox, is
shewed the
madness of
rage and fury,
and how neg-
ligent it is in
respecting its
own hazard,
so it may do
mischief to
the adversary.
The Fox's
accepting of
it, shews how
when policy
hath no other
shutting hole,
that then it
grows despe-
rate, and will
out-face any

take care of your self in this Battle, be bold and wise, your
Uncle taught me once a Prayer of singular virtue for him
which was to fight: and he learned it of that excellent
Scholar and Clark, the Abbot of Budelo, and he that said
this Prayer with a good devotion fasting, shall never be
overcome in Combat: and therefore my best Nephew be
not affraid, for to morrow I will read it over to you, and
the Wolf shall never prevail against you. The Fox gave
her many thanks for her favours, and told her his quarrel
was good and honest, and therefore he had no doubt of his
happy success: so all that Night he tarried with his kind
folks about him, who drave away the time with pleasant
discourse. But Dame Rukenaw his Aunt still beat her
brazin how to work him advantage in the Combat: where-
fore she caused all his hair to be shaven off even from his
head to the tail, and then she anointed all his body quick-
silver with oil of Olive, so that she made it so smooth and
slippery, that the Wolf could catch no hold of him: besides
he was round, fat, and plump of body, which much
abailed

of Reynard the F-O X.

ailed to his advantage: then she advised him that night
drink exceeding much; that he might be more apt to piss
the morning, but in no wise to shed any till he came into
the field: then (said she) when you are in the fight, and see
me sitting, piss upon your bushy tail, and strike it in the
Wolfs face, and as near as you can into his eyes, by
which means blinding his sight, he shall be little able
to offend you: but at these special times keep your tail as
close as can be between your legs, lest he catch hold there-
on, and pull you to the ground: also look carefully to your
self at the first, and by all means shun his blows, mak-
ing him to toil and run after you, especially there where
most dust is, and spring it up with your feet, make it flie
in his eyes, take your advantage, and smite and bite him
where you may do him most mischief, eber and anon strik-
ing him on the face with your tail full of piss, and that will
take from him both sight and understanding: besides, it
will so tire and weary him, that his feet not being fully
cured of their hurt, by the loss of his shoo's, which you
caused to be pulled off, he will not be able to pursue you:
for though he be great, yet his heart is little and weak.
This (Nephew) is mine advice, and assure your self in
these cases, Art prevaileth as much as courage; therefore
regard your self, that not only your self, but your
whole family may gain honour and reputation from your
fortune: as for the charm of Prayer which your Uncle
Martin taught me, by which you may be invincible, it is
his which followeth. Then laying her hand upon his
head, she said, Blaerd, Shay, Alphenio, Rasbue, Gorfons,
Arshuntro. Now Nephew, assure your self you are free
from all mischief or danger whatsoever, therefore go to
your rest, for it is near day, and some sleep will make the
Body better disposed.

thing, to the
uttermost
danger.

By the she-
Apes counsel,
is shewed, the
care of a true
friend, which
is then ever
most busie,
when he sees
his companion
in danger,
and leaves no
way unsought
that may free
him from
trouble.

The Fox gave her infinite thanks, and told her she had
bound him (to her) a servant for ever: and in those holy
words she had spoken, he had placed his confidence unre-
movable; and so he laid him down to rest under a Tree in
the grass, till it was Sun-rise: at what time the Otter
came

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came unto him and awaked him, and gave him a fat young Duck to eat, saying, Dear Cousin I have toiled all the night to get this present for you, which I took from a Fowler, here take and eat it, and it shall give you vigour and courage. The Fox gave him many thanks, and said it was fortunate hansel, and if he survived that day, he



should

of Reynard the FOX.

should find he would require it : so the Fox eat the Duck without bread or sauce, more than his hunger, and to it he drank four great draughts of water, and then he went to the place appointed, where the lists stood, with all his kindred attending on him.

When the King beheld Reynard thus shorn and oyled, he said to him: Well Fox, I see you are careful to your own



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safety : you respect not bootie , so you escape danger. The Fox answered not a word , but bowing himself down humbly to the Earth , both before the King and the Queens Majesties , went forth into the Field , and at the same time the Wolf was also ready , and stood boasting , and giving out many proud and vain-glorious speeches. The Marshals and Rulers of the Lists , were the Libbard , and the Wolf. These brought forth a Book , on which the Wolf swore , and maintained his assertion , That the Fox was a Traytor , and a murtherer , which he would prove on his body , or else he counted a Recreant. Then Reynard took the Book , and swore , he lied as a false Traytor and a Thief , which he would prove on his body , or be accounted a Recreant.

When these Ceremonies were done , the Marshals of the Field had them to their devoir. And then every creature avoided the Lists , save Dame Rukenaw , who stood by the Fox , and bade him remember the words and instructions she had given him , and call to mind , how when he was scarce seven years old , he had then wisdom enough to pick the darkest night without Lanthorn or Candle-light , or the help of the Moon , when any occasion required him : and that his experience was much greater , and his reputation of wisdom more frequent with his companions : and therefore to work so as he might win the day , which would be an eternal Monument to him and his family for ever. To this the Fox answered (my best Aunt) assure yourself I will do my best , and not forget a tittle of your Counsel ; I doubt not but my friends shall reap honour , and my foes shame by my actions : to this the Ape said , Amen ; and so departed.

of Reynard the FOX.

CHAP. XIV.

Of the Combat betwixt the Fox and the Wolf; the
Event, Passages, and Victory.



When none but the Combatants were in the Lists, the
Wolf went toward the Fox with infinite rage and
 fury, and thinking to take the Fox in his fore-feet, the
 Fox leapt nimbly from him, and the Wolf pursued him;
 that there began a tedious chase between them, on which
 their friends gazed. The Wolf taking larger strides than
 the Fox, often overtook him; and lifting up his feet to
 strike him, the Fox avoided the blow, and smote him on
 the face with his tail, which was all so be-piss, that the
 Wolf was stricken almost blind, the piss smarted so ex-
 tremely. And he was forced to rest while he cleared his
 eyes: which advantage when Reynard saw, he scratched up
 dust with his feet, and threw it in the eyes of the Wolf.

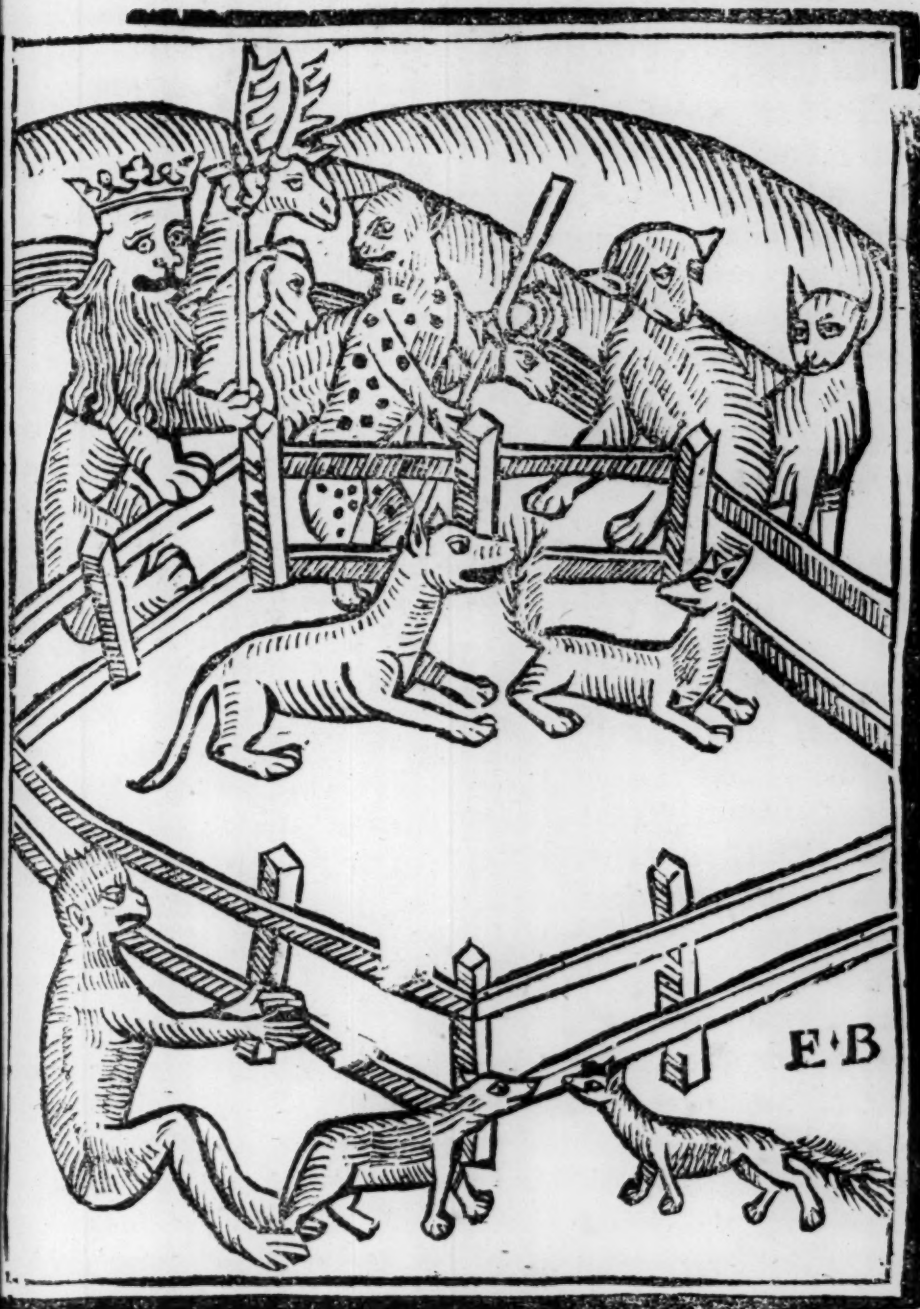
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This grieved him worse than the former; so that he durst follow him no longer, for the dust and sand sticking in his eyes, smarted so sore, that of force he must rub and wash it away; which Reynard seeing, with all the fury he had, he ran upon him, and with his teeth gave him three sore wounds on his head, and scoffing said, have I hit you Mr. Wolf? I will yet hit you better: you have killed many a Lamb, and many an innocent Beast, and would impose the fault upon me, but you shall find the price of your Knavery, I am markt to punish thy sins, and I will give thee thy absolution bravely. It is good thou use patience, for Hell is Purgatory, and thy life is at my mercy: Yet notwithstanding, if thou wilt kneel down, and ask me forgiveness, and confess thy self vanquished, though thou beest the worst thing living, yet I will spare thy life, for my pity makes me loath to kill thee. These words made Isgrim both mad and desperate, so that he knew not how to express his fury: his wounds bled, his eyes smarted, and his whole body was oppressed. So that in the height of his fury he lift up his foot, and struck the Fox so great a blow, that he fell'd him to the ground. But Reynard being nimble, quickly rose up again, and encountered the Wolf, that between them begun a dreadful and doubtful Combat. The Wolf was exceeding furious, and ten times he leaped to catch Reynard fast, but his skin was so slippery and oyle, he could not hold him. Nay, so wondrous nimble was he in the fight, that when the Wolf thought to have him surest, he would shift himself between his legs, and under his belly, and every time gave the Wolf a bite with his teeth, or a swab on the face with his tail, that the poor Wolf found nothing but despair in the conflict, albeit his strength was much the greater.

Thus many wounds and biteings passed on either side; the one expressing cunning, and the other strength; the one fury, the other temperance. In the end, the Wolf being enraged that the battle had continued so long (for had his feet been sound, it had been much shorter) he said to himself, I will make an end of this Combat; for I know my very weight is able to crush him to pieces, and I

of Reynard the FOX.

se much of my reputation to suffer him thus long to
contend against me. And this said, he struck the Fox a-



gain so sore a blow on the head with his foot, that he fell
down to the ground, and ere he could recover himself, and
arise

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The Moral. By the Wolf's furious assailing the Fox, and the Fox his watching and pursuing of advantage, is shewed the folly of rage and passion, and the discretion of temperance and Wisdom: the first never bringing any thing but loss, the other commonly accompanied with honour and safety. By the pist-tail, is exprest the sharp afflictions with which wisdom ever punishes rashness; and by the loss of the Wolf's eye, is shewed, that madness and rage is evermore but blindness.

The Wolf's catching the Fox and holding him in his power, shews that fortune sometimes favours fools, but never gives them grace to enjoy

arise, he caught him in his feet, and threw him under him, lying upon him in such wise, as if he would have pressed him to death.

Now began the Fox to be grievously afraid, and all his friends began to shout for joy: but the Fox defended himself (as well as he could) with his claws, lying along; but the Wolf could not hurt him with his claws, his feet were so sore; only with his teeth he snatched at him to bite him; which when the Fox saw, he smote the Wolf on the head with his fore-claws, so that he tore the skin between his brows, and his ears, and one of his eyes hung out of his head, which put the Wolf to infinite torment, and he howled out extremely; then Isgrim wiping his face, the Fox took advantage thereof, and with his struggling got upon his feet.

At which the Wolf was angry, and striking after him, caught the Fox in his arms, and held him fast: never was Reynard in so great a strait as then, for that time great was their contention: but anger now made the Wolf forget his smart: and griping the Fox altogether under him, as Reynard was defending himself, his hand light into Isgrim's mouth, so that he was in danger to lose it. Then said the Wolf to the Fox, now either yield thy self as vanquished, or else certainly I will kill thee; neither thy dust, thy piss, thy macks, nor any subtil invention shall now save thee; thou art now left utterly desperate, and my wounds must have their satisfaction. When the Fox heard this, he thought it was a hard Election; for both brought his ruin; and suddenly concluding, he said, Dear Uncle, since fortune commands me, I yield to be your Servant; at your Commandment I will travel for you to the Holy Land, or any other Pilgrimage, or do any service which shall be beneficial to your soul, or the soul of your Forefathers: I will do for the King or for our Holy father the Pope: I will hold of you my Lands and Revenues; and as I, so shall the rest of my kindred; so that you shall be a Lord of many Lords, and none shall dare to move against you: Besides, whatsoever I get of Bullins, Geese, Partridges, or Plover, flesh or fish, you, your wife and children, shall have the first choice ere any come in my belly; I will

of Reynard the FOX.

will ever stand by your side, and wheresoeber you go, no danger shall come near you: you are strong, and I am subtil, we two joynd together, what force can prevaile against us? Again, we are so near in blood, that nature forbids there should be any enmity between us: I would not have fought against you, had I been sure of victorie, but that you first appealed, and then you know of necessity I must do my uttermost; I have also in this battle been courteous to you, and not shewed my worst violence, as I would on a stranger; for I know it is the duty of a Nephew to spare his Uncle: and this you may well perceive by my running from you. I tell you, it was an action much contrary to my nature; for I might have often hurt you when I refused, nor are you worse for me by any thing more than the blemish of your eye, for which I am sorry, and wish it had not happened: yet thereby know, that you shall reap rather benefit than loss thereby, for when other Beasts in their sleep shut two windows, you shall shut but one. As for my wife, children, and lineage, they shall fall down at your feet, before you in my presence: therefore I humbly desire you, that you will suffer poor Reynard to live. I know you will kill me, but what will that avail you, when you shall never live in safety for fear of revengement of my kindred? A heretofore temperance in my mans wrath is excellent, whereas rashness is ever the Mother of repentance: but Uncle, I know you to be valiant, wise, and discrete, and you rather seek honour, peace, and good fame, than blood and revenge.

Isegrim the Wolf said, Infinite dissembler how fain wouldst thou be freed of my servitude? As well I understand thee, and know that if thou wert safe on thy feet, thou wouldst forswear this submission: but know, all the wealth in the world shall not buy out thy ransom; for thee and thy friends I esteem them not, nor believe any thing thou hast uttered: too well I know thee, and am no bird for thy Lime-bush, chaff cannot deceive me: O how wouldst thou triumph, if I should believe thee, and say, I wanted wit to understand thee: but thou shalt know, I can look both on this side, and beyond thee; thy many deceits used upon me, have now armed me against thee. Thou saist, thou hast spared me in the

the benefits.
The Fox his
flattering of
the Wolf,
shews, That
whenever
wisdom is op-
pressed, it hath
yet still one
temperate
means or other
to gain his
own liberty;
and that fair
words do ever
either van-
quish, or as-
tonish. Last-
ly, by the
weak Foxes
conquering
the strong
Wolf, is shew-
ed, that in all
these acci-
dents of
change, nei-
ther force,
rage, nor vio-
lence, do pre-
vail so much
as wisdom,
discretion,
and tempe-
rate, and wa-
ry carriage.

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the battle: but look upon me, and my wounds will shew how
 falsely thou liest, thou never gav'st me a time to breathe in, now
 will I now give thee a minute to repent in; and the rather
 when I think of the dishonour thou didst to my bed, and how
 inhumanly thou did'st ravish my dear wife Dame Arlewind.

Now, whilst Isegrim was thus talking, the Fox bethought
 himself how he might best get free; and thrusting his other
 hand down between his legs, he caught the Wolf fast by the
 stones, and he wzung him so extreemly and hard thereby
 that he made him shriek and howl out with the anguish: then
 the Fox drew his other hand out of his mouth; for the
 Wolf was in such wondrous torment, that he had much ado
 to contain himself from swoounding: for his torment exceed-
 ed far the pain of his eye, and in the end he fell over and over
 in a swoond: then presently Reynard leapt upon, and drew
 him about the Lists, and drag'd him by the Legs, and struck
 wounded, and bit him in many places, so that all the whole
 field might take notice thereof.

At this all Isegrim's friends were full of sorrow, and with
 great weeping and lamenting went to the King, and prayed
 him to be pleased to appease the Combat, and take it into
 his own hands: which suit the King granted, and then the
 Lybard and the Losse (being Marshals) entered the Lists
 and told the Fox and the Wolf that the King would speak
 with them, and that the battle should there end, for he
 would take it into his own hands, and determine thereof: as
 for themselves, they had done sufficiently, neither would the
 King lose either of them: and to the Fox they said, the
 whole field gave him the victory.

The Fox said, I humbly thank them, and what please
 my Lord the King to command, I am ready to obey; for mine
 ambition is no further than to be victor: Therefore I be-
 seech you let my friends come to attend me, that I may
 proceed by their advice. They answered, it was reason:
 so presently came forth Dame Slopard, and Grimbard her hus-
 band, Dame Rukenaw with her two Sisters, Bitelas and Ful-
 rump her two Sons, and Malice her Daughter, the Field
 House, the Measel, and above an hundred which would not
 have come if the Fox had lost the conquest: for to him that

of Reynard the FOX.

hath honour, will ever flock attendants; but to him that is in loss, will nothing but contempt follow. Alas, to the Fox came the Beber, the Otter, and both their wives Pauntecrote, and Ordigale, and the Ostrole, the Martin, and the Fitchews, the Ferrit, the Squirril, and a world more than I can name, and all because he was the victor: nay, Divers which before had complained of him, were now of nearest kindred; and ready to do him all service. This is the fashion of the world, he that is rich and in favour, can never be poor or hungry for friendship, every one will seem to love him, every one will imitate his falshoods.



Then was a solemn feast held, Trumpets were sounded, Cornets winding Shavms, and all instruments warbled, and every one cried, Praised be Heaven for this glorious conquest. Reynard thanked them all kindly, and received them with great joy and gladness: Then asked their opinions, whether he should yield the victory to the King or

I

no?

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no: and Dame Solpard said, yea by all means Cousin, for it stands with your Honour, nor may you deny it. And so the Marshals going before, they went all to the King, guarding the Fox on every side, all the Trumpets, Pipes and Minstrels sounding before him.



When Reynard came before the King, he fell on his knees, and the King made him stand up, and said to him, Reynard

of Reynard the FOX.

nard, you may well reioyce, for you have won much Honour this Day; therefore here I discharge you, and set you free, to go whither your own will leads you; for all contestations I take upon my self, and will have it discusst by the wisest of the Kingdom, as soon as Isegrim's wounds shall be cured, at what time I will send for you, and so proceed to Judgment.

My worthy dread Lord (said the Fox) I am well appaid with any thing that shall please you: yet when I came first to your Highness Court, there were many malicious persons which sought my Life (whom I never injured) but they thought to overcome me, by ioyning with mine enemies against me, and thinking the Wolf had greater favour than I with your Majesty: this was the ground of their indignation, wherein they shewed their simplicity, not to alter the end which followed.

These men (my Lord) are like a great kennel of Hounds which once I saw standing at a Lords house on a dunghil, where they waited for such as should bring them meat; anon they saw a Hound come out of the Kitchen, which had thence brought a goodly rib of Beef: but the Cook pursuing him, threw hot scalding water after him, and scalded all his hinder parts: but notwithstanding, away he went with his boory; but when his fellows perceived him, they called to him, and said, How much art thou bound to the good Cook which hath given thee that goodly bone so well furnished with flesh; but the Dog replied, you speak according to your knowledge; and praise me in such sort, as you see me before with the bone in my mouth; but if you please to look upon me behind on my Buttocks, you shall find how dearly I paid for it; and they beholding how he was scalded, and all the hair and skin flayed from his hinder loins, they began to be agast and amazed at his torment; neither would they have any more of his Fellowship, but fled and ran away from him. In the same sort (my Lord) these false and unworthy Beasts, when they are made Lords, possess their desires and are mighty and renowned, then do they extort, pill and

The Pleasant History

and poll the pooz and needy, and eat them up like so many hunger starved Hounds; for they are the Dogs with bones in their mouths, no man dare to meddle with them, but praise all their actions; no man dare to offend them; nay, many assist and help them in their unlawful actions, only that they may lick their fingers, and be partakers of their extortions.

My Daer Lord) how can those men go safely, which go thus blind-fold? Or how can they expect but a shameful fall, whose steps are so uncertain? neither can any man pity them when their works are disclosed, but continual curses and upbraidings follow them to the grave with destruction: many of these have lost their hair (which is their friends) as the Hounds did, and have none left to cover their mischiefs, but all forsake them as the Hounds did the Dog which was scalded.

My Gracious Lord, I beseech you remember this moral example, and it will nothing impair the greatness of your virtue, for doubtless many of these evil extorting creatures are under your subjection, both in Towns, Cities, and great Lords houses, who out-face the poor, and sell away their freedoms and privileges, and threaten things upon them which they never knew, thought or imagined, and all to make up the Common-wealths of their own particular profits: but the ends of such are vile, and Heaven hath for them a Judgement: but of these errors I hope none shall justly accuse me, nor any of my kindred, but we shall acquit our selves nobly from the same. I fear no creatures accusations; for I will ever be the Fox, though all my foes swear to the contrary. My Lord, you I adore above all mortal creatures living; nor can any wisdom divert me from you, but I will abide by you to the last gasp: and though Malice have told your Highness to the contrary, yet I have ever disproved them, and so will do to the last moment.

of Reynard the FOX.

CHAP. XXV.

Now the King forgave the Fox all things, and made him the greatest in his Land; and of his Noble return home with all his kindred.

The King said, Reynard, you are one that owe me homage and fealty, and I hope I shall ever enjoy it; And



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for your service, here I make you one of the Lords of
Wiseby Council. Take heed you do not any thing unwor-
ly: for here I place you in all your power and authority
formerly you were, hoping you will administer Justice
equally and truly. For as long as you employ your
unto virtuous actions, so long the Court cannot miss you
for you are a Star, whose luster exceeds all other, especially
in finding out mischiefs, and preventing them. Therefore
remember the Moral you your self told me, and be a lover
of truth and equity. From henceforth I will be governed
by your wisdom, and there shall not breathe that Creature
in my Kingdom which shall do you injury, but I will have
revenge it. This you shall Proclaim through all the
Nation, and be the chiefest Governour in the same, for
Office of High Bayliff here I freely bestow upon you, and
I know you may reap great honour thereby.

All Reynard's friends and kindred humbly thanked the
King; but he told them it was much short of that he
intended to do for their sakes; and advised them all to
monish him to be careful of his faith and loyalty. The
said Dame Rukewaw, Believe it my Lord, we will not
in that point, neither fear you the contrary; for should
prove otherwise, we would renounce him? Then the King
also thanked the King with fair and courteous words,
saying: My gracious Lord! I am not worthy of these
honours you do me, yet will ever study with my service
how to deserve them: nor shall my best Counsel at any
time be wanting. And this said, he took his humble leave
of the King, and so departed with the rest of his friends
and kindred.

Now whilst these passages hapned, Bruin the Bear, Tice
the Cat, and Anwind and her Children, with the rest of
their Lineage, drew the Wolf out of the Field, and laid
him upon soft Litter, and Hay, and covered him all over
very warm, and dressed his wounds, which were to the num-
ber of five and twenty, by the help of many skilful Leeches
and Surgeons. His sickness and weakness was so great
that his feeling was lost: but they rubbed and chafed him

of Reynard the FOX.

The Moral.

By these honours done to the Fox by the Lyon, is shewed, that seldom one good fortune cometh without another; and he that hath once achieved fame and renown, to him will the World flie, and dignity on dignity shall be heaped upon him: as on the contrary part, he that is once fallen either in state or reputation, it is a thing of much difficulty to see him advanced without miracle; for worldly men are said to be like Dogs, which when one of their own kind is down, all the rest will fall upon him and worry him.

But with men

or good men

(for both are

scarce) are

said to be like

Dogs, which

when one of

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their kind is danger or peril of his life. So the Court brake up,
down, all the every Beast return'd to his own home.

Amongst the rest, Reynard the Fox took his leave of
King and Queen, they desired him not to be long ab

For any
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tained in this
Chapter, it is
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of Reynard the FOX.

from them. To whom he answered, that he would be ever ready at their service, as was his bounden duty; and not himself alone, but all his friends and kindred also. And then begging licence of his Majestie in all solemn manner, and with fair speech, he departed the Court.

Was there any Creature flattered braver, or to better purpose? for he that could do the like, might be a Master of the Eight liberal Sciences: And no Lord whether Spiritual or Temporal, but would have an ear open for all his Language. For died he without issue, for he hath Children almost in all places.

And indeed, he that hath no alliance to him in the Art of dissimulation, shall hardly prosper, as the World goeth: Though he want his hair, yet if he have his heart, it is enough to make him accepted.

Blain dealing is now an Exile: and Covetousness and fraud have taken possession of his Tenements; the Pope's Palace, the Courts of Emperors, Kings and Princes, cannot be exempted from this error.

Money is now grown the only Favourite of the time; the very Church-Idol, and the Country-Worship: it can purchase all things, defend all things, and confound all things. And Mad-men Travel o'er the World, to gain this folly, this fashion. Who is not a true Fox, is but a beast of base estimation.

This is the Worlds custom; and what will become of the use, the wise man can hardly judge or imagine: Only that these banious sins of falshood, Theft, Murder, and Ambition, can never walk but hand in hand with Judgment. From which I heartily pray that the Hand of the Highest will defend us, and make us walk in those paths which shall be suitable to virtue and piety. With which I conclude, since these misdeeds are not fit Themes for me to treat of, since at the last day every one is sure to give an account for his own burthen.

With Reynard, all his friends and Kinsfolk; to the number of forty, took their leaves also of the King: and went away with the Fox, who was, no little glad creature

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ture that he had sped well and stood so fair in the Kings fa-
vour, for now he had power enough to aduance whom he
pleased, and pull down any that envied his fortune.

After some trauel the Fox and all his Friends came to his



Byzough or Castle of Malepardus, where every one (in noble
and courteous manner) took leave of the other, and Reynard
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of Reynard the FOX.

did to ebery one of them great reberence, and thanked them for the lobe and honour he had receibed of them; protesting ever moze to remain their faithful servant, and to serbe them in all things wherein his life or goods might be serviceable unto them: and shook hands and departed.

The Fox went into Dame Ermelin his Wife, who welcomed him with great tenderness: and to her and her childzen he related at large, all the wonders which had befallen him at the Court: and mist no tittle or circumstance therein. Then grew they proud that his fortune was so excellent: and the Fox spent his days from thenceforth (with his Wife and Childzen) in great joy and content.

Now whosoever shall relate unto you (of the Fox) more or less than you have heard, I would not wish you to build any faith upon his reports: Only this which you have already heard or read, you may believe at your best pleasure: Notwithstanding if any refuse, he shall not be accounted an Heretick, since he that only saw it, may best give credit unto it, and yet many in this World believe the things they have not seen.

Besides, there are many Plays, both Comick and Moral, which figure out things that never were, only to make use and benefit of the example: That men may thereby the better shun Vice, and pursue Virtue. In like manner, this Book, though it contain but matter of jest and sport, yet if ye look seriously thereinto, ye may haply find much Moral matter and wisdom, worth your consideration. Goodness, nor any Good man shall ye find in it disreputed, for all things are generally spoke, and ebery man may take his own part as his conscience shall so instruct him: if any man find himself too much oppressed, let him shake it off with amendment. If any man be clear, let him hold on his path, and avoid stumbling: And if any take distast or offence, let him not blame me, but the Fox, for it is only his Language. But if all things suit to my wished imaginations, I shall then be encouraged to salute the World with a second part, clad in some neater English, deeper matter, and if not moze, yet ebery whit as pleasant Morals.



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